BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.132 BENGALURU | THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 24 | PRICE ₹6**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa deals another blow to hometown hero and world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, defeating him in a classical game for the 2nd time at Norway Chess 2026 and **boosting his bid to be the first Indian to win the event,** P 16

CBS News fires veteran journalist **Scott Pelley following clashes with executives** over cuts at 60 Minutes, where he had worked since 2004, amid a tumultuous shakeup of the organisation, P 12

"JD and Marco as a team would be very hard to beat", **in a 2028 presidential run, says US President Trump** about JD Vance and Marco Rubio, adding the two "get along great" and would make a formidable ticket

Russia's **Diana Shnaider** stuns Aryna Sabalenka to reach her first Grand Slam semi-final at Roland Garros, while qualifier Maja Chwalinska continues fairytale campaign defeating Anna Kalinskaya to book a maiden major semi-final berth. P 16

1st SAS flight to India in 17 yrs turned back

Scandinavian carrier SAS recommenced service to India after 17 years with an early morning landing planned in Mumbai Wednesday, but the inaugural flight had to turn back midway over pending regulatory issues. The flight from Copenhagen, which took off four hours late, had flown four hours and was flying over Azerbaijan when it turned back. P 6

TN CM Vijay gives Cong lone RS seat

Tamil Nadu chief minister C Joseph Vijay handed Wednesday the lone Rajya Sabha seat that fell vacant in the state to ally Congress. "Vijay has proved that he is a man of his word. By honouring his commitment and standing firmly by his promise, he has demonstrated principled leadership and political integrity," said AICC's TN in-charge Girish Chodankar. P 5

4th sqn of S400 'starts arriving' from Russia

The first batch of the 4th squadron of Russian-made S-400 Triumf air defence systems has arrived in India, a source told **TOI.** Of the five squadrons under the 2018 contract, three were already sent by Russia. The fifth may come in Nov. TNN

5 kids drown in pit in Bihar, 1 injured

Five children drowned in a rainwater-filled pit, while another was injured, near Kerwar village in Bihar's Madhubani district on Wednesday. The victims were aged between nine and 12 years, and included a brother-sister duo, both 10. P 7

US moots 12.5% tariff on India, 53 others over 'forced labour'

Move Comes Amid Trade Deal Talks In New Delhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a widely anticipated move, the US Trade Representative (USTR) on Tuesday proposed 12.5% tariff on exports from 54 countries, including India and China, accusing them of failure to curb import of goods using forced labour. The announcement came while American officials are in India to discuss the details of the framework agreement, which commerce & industry minister Piyush Goyal had said is close to finalisation.

▶EDIT: More Arm Twisting

USTR is also expected to release its report on the second probe launched by it — dealing with excess capacity in 16 countries, including India — in what is seen as a move to replace the temporary 10% in place till July 24.

In a statement, the commerce & industry ministry said: "India remains engaged with the US on the matter as a part of section 301 proceedings. India is also parallelly engaged with the US for finalisation of a framework agreement as was announced on 2nd Feb 2026 and in accordance with the joint statement released on 7th Feb 2026." In its submissions to USTR, govt agencies and businesses had dismissed the allegations and called the probe unjustified, arguing that it was an issue on which there were global rules.

Govt officials, who have held multiple rounds of discussions with their American counterparts over the last few months, were expecting the US to rely on section 301 to impose additional tariffs, a main policy lever for the Trump administration's efforts to discourage exports and get countries to negotiate duties bilaterally.

Govt has maintained that it will agree to a bilaterally negotiated rate if India get a comparative advantage over rival countries. While India, UK, China, Japan, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Vietnam face 12.5% tariffs, five countries — Pakistan, Canada, Mexico, Indonesia and Ecuador — and the European Union face the prospect of an additional 10% tariff.

In its report, USTR alleged that there was evidence of use of forced labour in cotton and polysilicon in the supply chain in China, which was used by other countries under probe. It also said that steel, aluminium, automobiles and auto parts, electronics and agriculture, which are often part of trans-shipment practices and at risk of forced labour. It said that these practices have impacted American goods.

"...the results of this investigation indicate that the acts, policies and practices of India related to the failure to impose and effectively enforce a forced labour import prohibition are unreasonable and burden or restrict US commerce," USTR said in its report with identical findings for each country. Now, the agency has sought comments by July 6 and will hold hearings on July 7 before determining the final action.

TRUMP & HIS TARIFF TRAJECTORY

Feb 13, 2025 | **Trump issues 'Reciprocal Trade and Tariffs' memorandum** outlining plan to lower US trade deficit

Apr 2 | **Announces min 10% tariff on all countries along with country-specific levies;** Indian exports face 17% additional duty

Apr 5 | **10% global tariff** implemented

Apr 9 | Hours after country-specific tariffs kick in, **Trump announces a 90-day suspension**

July 7 | **Pause extended** to Aug 1, pending negotiations

July 31 | **India faces 25% tariff** when fresh reciprocal tariffs announced, effective Aug 7

Aug 6 | **Another 25% penal tariff imposed** on India for buying Russian oil. Total duty 50%

Feb 6, 2026 | India, US announce **framework agreement with 18% tariff**

Feb 20 | **US SC terms emergency tariffs illegal,** Trump slaps 10% duty on all countries for 150 days

Mar 11 | **USTR starts probe** into structural excess capacity against India & 15 nations

Mar 12 | **2nd probe against India & 59 nations** for failing to prohibit shipment of goods produced with forced labour

Foreigners among 21 killed in south Delhi hotel blaze

Raj Shekhar Jha, Abhay & Devanshi

New Delhi: A deadly blaze ripped through a bed and breakfast facility in the densely packed neighbourhood of south Delhi's Hauz Rani Wednesday morning, claiming 21 lives and leaving 20 others severely injured. The fire erupted at Flourish Stay Bed & Breakfast, which was hosting around 50 guests at the time, and spread to an adjacent inn.

At least nine of the 18 victims identified so far are foreigners, most of whom had come for medical treatment.

It is suspected that fire originated from a commercial LPG cylinder in the basement kitchen or in the AC of a restaurant on the ground floor. Witnesses said they heard a blast just before the blaze spread around 8.40am. Fed by combustible material, the flames spread rapidly and thick plumes of smoke spiralled up the single, narrow central stairwell.

Delhi police filed an FIR for culpable homicide and arrested the facility owner Lavkesh Bajaj, a resident of Saket, hours after a look-out circular was issued against him and his wife. Scores of sleeping guests on upper floors and in the basement were instantly trapped in a suffocating nightmare. Many jumped from upper-story windows to escape being burned alive. Locals dragged heavy bedding, large mattresses, and thick blankets to break their fall but many sustained head injuries and fractures.

Masked firefighters, cops and local residents managed to pull out around 48 people.

Of the 21 who died, police have managed to identify nine foreigners and the nine Indian nationals, of which eight were from one family.

Three people, suspected to be foreigners, are yet to be verified. Two of the victims are from Kyrgyzstan, two from Nigeria and one each from Uzbekistan, Mozambique and Liberia, police said.

▶Form human chain, P 6

Locals and cops braved the fire to pull out around 48 people

DEATH TRAP

- Owners **illegally modified building structure** to pack in 25 rooms though they had permission for only 6 rooms
- Fire started in ground floor restaurant, **blocked the only exit route for guests** — a narrow, internal staircase. **Sealed windows** also cut off guests' escape path; building had **no external fire escape**
- There were **no functioning smoke detectors, fire alarms, or sprinkler systems**
- Several heavy **commercial LPG cylinders** were stored on ground floor without **fire isolation barriers**

Cabinet backs ordinance to ease tax rules for fgn investors in some securities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Union cabinet on Wednesday recommended an ordinance to ease tax rules for foreign investors in some categories of securities.

The details of the proposal moved by the finance ministry were not immediately available. However, it is being seen as an effort to help strengthen the rupee, which has weakened 6% against the US dollar as foreign portfolio investors have pulled out a record Rs 2.6 lakh crore from equities since Jan.

The move is likely part of a coordinated action with Reserve Bank of India, which is expected to announce measures on Friday following the monetary policy committee meeting that began on Wednesday.

Govt has been seeking to address concerns of various sectors, through measures such as a govt-guaranteed credit line for businesses and a package for exporters, apart from adjustments in duties, including fuel, to insulate the economy from the impact of the West Asia war.

But the slide of the rupee and the constant FPI withdrawal from the market has been an area of concern. In the run-up to the Union budget, representatives of FPIs had sought tax changes, including a review of the capital gains tax regime for listed securities, and argued against levy of capital gains tax and securities transaction tax.

Tax experts have said over the years, govt has increased long-term and short-term capital gains tax, while levying STT, which makes investments in India less attractive.

₹10k cr to prevent fuel shocks for airlines

In a bid to ensure airfares don't get completely out of reach for the common citizen and airlines don't collapse, govt decided to set aside Rs 10,000 crore to cap ATF prices and prevent them from witnessing sharp surges. P 7

Nod for plan to swap out old trucks, buses

The Cabinet OK'd a Rs 9,585-crore scheme to replace older, polluting trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR with BS-VI-compliant vehicles or EVs in two years. The scheme will benefit about 1.9 lakh truck and 16,000 bus owners. TNN

Indian dies in Iran drone strike on Kuwait airport

An Indian national was killed and several others injured in an Iranian drone strike on Kuwait international airport on Wednesday. India has condemned the attack, confirming the death of the Indian national and injuries to others. "We call upon parties to cease such attacks. We offer our deepest condolences to the bereaved family," MEA said.

Kuwait said 63 people were treated for injuries "including head wounds, cerebral hemorrhages, amputations and injuries resulting from explosions".

Iran targeted a US military ship hosting a "control and command center" while it was approaching Iranian territorial waters in the Gulf of Oman, Iran's state media reported. P 12

Mamata's TMC splits as 58 of 78 MLAs break away

Tamaghna Banerjee & Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay | TNN

Kolkata: Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress was in disarray Wednesday after 58 of its 78 MLAs orchestrated the party's first split in its 28-year history, nominating expelled MLA Ritabrata Banerjee as leader of the opposition in a snub sealed by assembly speaker Rathindra Bose handing the first-time legislator the key to his chamber within hours of receiving the letter.

The rebel bloc comfortably crossed the anti-defection law's two-thirds threshold. With Ritabrata and Entally MLA Sandipan Saha's expulsion this week reducing Trinamool's assembly strength to 78, the number required for the split to hold was 52.

Ritabrata said later that two more MLAs were ready to cross over. The rebels blamed TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and the party's poll strategist I-PAC for their decision to break ranks. Curiously, the group stressed that party founder Mamata remained the party's lynchpin, although Ritabrata's choice of designation for her raised eyebrows.

▶Abhishek has no relation, P 5

IANS

The speaker recognised Ritabrata Banerjee as leader of oppn

Faultlines may make BJP path easier in Parl

When it seemed that a united opposition could derail govt's ambitious legislative agenda, like the delimitation bill in the last session, the split in TMC, and DMK weighing its options after Congress dumped it for TVK, appear to have made the way forward smoother for BJP-led NDA in and outside Parliament. P5

5,000 more engg, arch seats this yr, total 1.6L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: There is an increase of 5,235 engineering and architecture seats in Karnataka colleges from this academic year, according to the final seat matrix announced on Tuesday night. Nearly 50% of new seats are with private universities.

As per the seat matrix, nearly 1.59 lakh seats are available across all types of colleges. Of these, over 75,000 seats are govt seats allotted by KEA; 32,679 are with Comed-K; and 51,294 are management seats.

There is a 500-seat increase in govt colleges, 2,580 increase in private universities, 1,695 increase in private colleges and marginal increase of 60 in deemed universities.

As reported by TOI earlier, fees for govt-quota engineering and architecture seats in private engineering colleges in Karnataka will increase by 7.5% from 2026-27. However, there will be no fee hike for medical courses this year, according to MR Jayaram of Karnataka Private Medical and Dental Colleges Association.

In line with recommendations by Sadagopan Committee on transforming engineering education, caps have been imposed on computer science-related programme intake.

▶Max intake restricted, P 4

THE BREAK-UP

75,000+ govt seats allotted by KEA

32,679 with Comed-K

51,294 management seats

How some K'taka varsities cracked digital evaluation

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Bengaluru: While enormity of the CBSE On-Screen Marking system scam is still unfolding, Karnataka's premier universities , including private ones, have been successfully deploying digital evaluation for over a decade with no major incidents. In Karnataka, the digital process spans from preparing question papers to announcing results.

One of the early adopters of technology was Visvesvaraya Technological University, the umbrella university for engineering colleges in the state. The varsity introduced digital evaluation in 2011. Initially, it adopted software from an external agency before developing its own. Other varsities which have gone fully digital include Rajiv Gandhi University of Medical Sciences (RGUHS), with over 1,500 colleges under its ambit, and St Joseph's University.

In the VTU system, answer scripts are brought to the regional centres of the universities where they are scanned and uploaded into the server. This allows evaluators to access and assess them digitally from designated locations. "I've served as a custodian of examinations and witnessed malpractices that can occur in manual systems — answer scripts replaced, pages tampered with, and question papers leaked," said H Maheshappa, former vice-chancellor of VTU, who introduced the system.

▶Live web streaming, P 4

TIGHT VIGIL & MULTIPLE STEPS

VTU | Answer scripts are **brought to the regional centres of the universities where they are scanned, uploaded into the server.** Later, evaluators access and assess the answer papers digitally from designated locations

Bangalore University | **Bought software from VTU** and customised it in 2018-19, and got its faculty trained

RGUHS | Scanning happens in the respective college under CCTV surveillance and live web streaming. **A central monitoring centre monitors the process.** Two-three staff to assist in scanning are sent to colleges. **Every answer script has a minimum of two evaluations**

362 B'deshis detained in Guj, 166 in A'bad

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gujarat police detained 362 Bangladeshi nationals and launched verification of more than 782 suspected foreign nationals as part of Operation Delta Hunt, an exercise aimed at identifying people residing illegally in the state. Figures released by the state govt say the detainees include 103 men, 188 women, and 71 children. Ahmedabad city accounted for the highest number with 166 detainees, followed by Surat with 84. Saurashtra and Kutch together accounted for 51.

The way you live your life is the way you play the game... I don't give up: Krunal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

His public image is of a flamboyant, emotional character. But there's a lot more to Krunal Pandya, the all-rounder with an enviable record of winning all five IPL finals that he's played in, including one last week. In the course of a long, candid interaction as TOI's Guest Sports Editor, Krunal emerged as a deep, articulate thinker on cricket, with a philosopher's outlook to match.

GUEST SPORTS EDITOR

Asked how he managed to repeatedly outshine some of the world's best in intense pressure situations, and whether such qualities could be taught to younger cricketers, the 35-year-old smiled and recalled a time when life wasn't so rosy for him and his family.

"When I was 11-12 years old, I used to work with my dad, who was a passport agent. I used to fill forms, do paperwork, get Xerox copies... help people get ration cards. I've seen life at a very young age from very close quarters. And the way you live your life is the way you play the game. I don't give up, in life or in cricket."

St Shanth Kumar

FULL COVERAGE: P 14

IN THE COURTS

- SC says a **person can be disqualified for a job if overqualified,** upholds termination of bank employee who was a graduate while job specification said s/he should not have passed Class 12 | P 7
- SC says **cops who abuse their position must be dealt with sternly,** and presumptions and standards applicable to a layperson won't apply to them, cancels anticipatory bail for 3 Maharashtra cops for harassing a family on a train | Page Opp
- Apex court to examine whether **fitness bands, activity trackers are communication devices** | Page Opp
- SC lets six Telangana educational institutes use 'Princeton' name **with disclaimer that they have no connection" with the US varsity** | Page Opp

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Bangalore Times

A FOREMYSELF

'Wearing just B&W suits to show I'll remain simple'

FWICE DROPS ITS NON-COOPERATION ORDER AGAINST RANVEER

Background

Buzzstop

CYLINDER BLAST CLAIMS CREW MEMBER'S LIFE ON THE SETS OF TAMIL FILM KILLER

DKoding the Prada, Gucci Gang

P3

I played for myself first, not for the nation, says Kapil Dev

'When you play for India, you need passion'

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HOW KARNATAKA'S POLITICAL CAPITAL MOVED ACROSS STATE

If Karnataka's CMs are plotted not by party but by regions they came from, a pattern emerges: Its political centre of gravity hasn't remained fixed. When DK Shivakumar took oath, he became the latest stop in a political journey that began in the northern districts, shifted to Old Mysuru, scattered across regions during the Janata era, and eventually settled into a contest between the Vokkaliga south and the Lingayat north, finds Chethan Kumar.

THE FIRST CENTRE | NORTHERN DISTRICTS DOMINATED

When Mysore state was formed in 1956, political power largely resided in the northern districts with domination from Lingayats. Congress organisation was strongest there, and many of the leaders who steered the young state emerged from there.

Although S Nijalingappa, the tallest leader of that decade, was born in Chitradurga, he drew his clout from the strong Lingayat base in the northern districts.

KEY FACES:
- **S Nijalingappa | 1956 & 1962**
- BD Jatti | **1958**
- SR Kanthi | **1962**
- Veerendra Patil | **1968**

THE BIG SHIFT | URS MOVED THE STATE'S CENTRE

No leader altered Karnataka's political geography more than Devaraj Urs. His rise in 1972 marked a turning point not merely in govt but in where power was exercised. By building a coalition of backward classes, Dalits and minorities, Urs transformed the Old Mysuru region into Karnataka's dominant political arena, a position it continues to hold decades later.

THE FACE:
- **Devaraj Urs | 1972 & 1978**

TURNING POINT: **Backward classes politics emerges;** Old Mysuru takes centre stage

YEARS OF DISPERSION | NO SINGLE REGION CONTROLLED POLITICS

The Janata era broke the old order. Between early 1980s and the turn of the century, for perhaps the only period in the state's history, power rotated across coastal, Malnad, south central and northern districts. It was the only period when the political map was genuinely decentralised.

KEY FACES:
- Gundu Rao | **1980**
- **Ramakrishna Hegde | 1983 & 1985**
- SR Bommai | **1988**
- S Bangarappa | **1990**
- Veerappa Moily | **1992**
- HD Deve Gowda | **1994**
- JH Patel | **1996**
- SM Krishna | **1999**
- Dharam Singh | **2004**

THE TWO-POLE ERA | IT BECAME A CONTEST BETWEEN TWO REGIONS

The rise of HD Deve Gowda and later Kumaraswamy reinforced the influence of the Vokkaliga heartland in southern Karnataka. At the same time, BJP's emergence under BS Yediyurappa created a powerful non-Old Mysuru counterweight rooted in the Lingayat belt, although Yediyurappa himself was from Shivamogga. For much of the past three decades, Karnataka politics has revolved around these two competing centres of power.

KEY FACES OF OLD MYSURU AXIS
- HD Kumaraswamy
- R Siddaramaiah

KEY FACES OF NON-OLD MYSURU AXIS
- BS Yediyurappa
- DV Sadananda Gowda
- Jagadish Shettar
- Basavaraj Bommai

Shivakumar paying tribute to Kengal Hanumanthaiah

SPOTLIGHT ON BENGALURU | DOES DKS SIGNAL THE REGION'S RISE?

Unlike many recent CMs, DK Shivakumar's political base lies in Kanakapura, on Bengaluru's southern edge. As the metropolis grows in population, economic clout and electoral importance, his elevation raises a larger question: Is Karnataka's political centre of gravity beginning another shift, this time towards the Bengaluru region? Also, the shift in power centres appears to have completed a full circle: Mysuru state's first elected CM, Kengal Hanumanthaiah, the man credited with the creation of Vidhana Soudha, the seat of power, was from the region!

Parameshwara as DCM could be the start of another tussle at top

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Bengaluru: G Parameshwara's elevation as deputy CM in DK Shivakumar's govt has revived memories of Congress' long history of competing centres of authority in Karnataka, prompting questions over whether the state could again see another high-profile tussle at the top.

During Siddaramaiah's second stint as CM, Shivakumar served as deputy CM while holding the influential Bengaluru development and water resources portfolios. As Shivakumar's political clout expanded, opposition parties and even sections within Congress frequently spoke of a parallel centre of authority operating alongside the chief minister's office.

A similar dynamic played out during Siddaramaiah's first tenure between 2013 and 2018, although in a different form. At the time, Parameshwara was Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president and was engaged in a prolonged battle with Siddaramaiah over appointments, organisational control and political influence within the state unit.

TOI

NEW BOSS: G Parameshwara with DK Shivakumar after he took oath as deputy CM at Lok Bhavan on Wednesday

The friction followed Parameshwara's unexpected defeat in Koratagere to JD(S) candidate PR Sudhakar Lal, a setback that denied him an opportunity to stake claim to the CM post. Party functionaries and political observers had alleged that Siddaramaiah benefited immensely from the defeat as it paved the way for his own ascent as CM.

But relations between the two veterans improved considerably after the Congress-JD(S) coalition govt collapsed in 2019. During Siddaramaiah's second stint as CM, Parameshwara emerged as one of his key supporters and is now regarded as being closer to the former CM than several other old-timers in the party.

> It is true that I wanted to be CM, but, as disciplined soldiers of the party, we must abide by decisions of the high command. This position is not a demotion. Any post is acceptable if it provides an opportunity to serve people. There is no question of Dalits being neglected. The party provides opportunities for different people to lead. This time, it has picked DK Shivakumar
>
> **G Parameshwara** | DEPUTY CM

Parameshwara now assumes the DCM role under very different circumstances. He was among the contenders for the CM post and had the support of several ministers in the previous cabinet. They argued that Congress should consider a Dalit as CM to embellish its commitment to social justice and representation. His elevation as deputy CM is widely seen as a move to pacify him and to balance caste and factional factors.

Parameshwara and former minister KN Rajanna, also from Tumakuru, had consistently backed Siddaramaiah's continuation as CM whenever Shivakumar's supporters raised the issue of a change. The disagreement became intense enough at times to require intervention from the party brass in Delhi.

However, analysts do not expect Parameshwara to emerge as an independent challenger to Shivakumar.

"Unlike many ambitious functionaries, he is known to avoid open confrontation and has rarely pursued aggressive factional politics like Siddaramaiah or Shivakumar," said MN Patil, political commentator. "The possibility of a competing power centre, therefore, may depend less on Parameshwara himself and more on broader dynamics within Congress."

Patil added: "Parameshwara's role appears designed to provide social representation and political balance rather than replicate the power struggles that periodically surfaced in previous Congress govts."

TWO NEW MINISTERIAL FACES

From reluctant doctor to dad's political heir

Yathindra | 45
MLC, MYSURU
Likely portfolio: Urban devpt or Minor irrigation

> I have a big responsibility to fulfil. My father earned popularity for his good administration, and I shall make a serious attempt to live up to expectations of following in my father's footsteps

For Yathindra Siddaramaiah, politics was never a first choice. A medical doctor by education, he entered public life only in 2016 after the death of his elder brother, Rakesh Siddaramaiah who was widely regarded as former CM Siddaramaiah's political successor.

Yathindra won the Varuna assembly seat in 2018, continuing his father's legacy in the constituency. In 2023, he vacated the seat for Siddaramaiah and subsequently took on a larger behind-the-scenes role in govt and party affairs. Over the past three years, Yathindra emerged as one of his father's strongest defenders, often making public statements on political developments, including on the DK Shivakumar-Siddaramaiah tussle. His nomination to the legislative council was seen as a clear indication that Siddaramaiah was grooming him as his political heir. However, his growing influence attracted criticism from the opposition, which accused him of wielding undue influence and dubbed him a 'super CM'.

After stint as speaker, back in council of ministers

UT Khader | 56
MANGALURU, DAKSHINA KANNADA
Likely portfolio: Health

> Every department of the govt is important. A minister gets to formulate new schemes and implement welfare measures that directly benefit people

For UT Khader, the journey from first-time MLA to cabinet minister has come full circle. The five-time MLA from Mangaluru was inducted into chief minister DK Shivakumar's cabinet, marking another milestone in a political career spanning nearly two decades. Khader entered politics in 2007 following the death of his father, UT Fareed, a four-time Congress MLA from Ullal. Contesting the byelection that followed, Khader won comfortably and has remained unbeaten in every assembly election since. A law graduate by education, Khader emerged as one of Congress' prominent faces in coastal Karnataka. Over the years, he handled important portfolios including health, food and civil supplies, housing and urban development, earning a reputation as an accessible leader with support cutting across communities. Known for his active participation in legislative debates, Khader received the 'Sadana Veera' award and served as deputy leader of the opposition. In 2023, he made history by becoming the first Beary Muslim to be elected speaker. He won praise from both sides of the aisle for maintaining decorum and conducting proceedings impartially. Khader is now expected to play a key role in the new govt and provide coastal Karnataka — a communally sensitive region — strong representation in the Shivakumar govt.

SHORT TAKES

Atheeq named financial adviser

Retired IAS officer LK Atheeq, who abruptly resigned as additional chief secretary to former CM Siddaramaiah, was appointed DK Shivakumar's financial adviser. He will continue to hold concurrent charge as chairman, Bengaluru Business Corridor. Senior IAS officer Tushar Giri Nath was appointed additional chief secretary to the CM, replacing IAS Anjum Parwez. IAS officer P Rajendra Cholan has been appointed secretary to the CM. Cholan will also hold additional charge as MD, Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd, relieving IAS officer Gaurav Gupta.

No woman minister

Congress' poor track record on the issue continued, with no woman figuring in the first list of 13 ministers. Laxmi Hebbalkar served as the lone woman in the previous cabinet, handling the woman and child welfare development portfolio. However, sources say two women may be considered when the cabinet is expanded.

CM's look-west policy

CM DK Shivakumar announced that, henceforth at any meeting or press briefing, he will sit facing west with his back to the east. Known for his beliefs in vaastu, Shivakumar after the cabinet meeting, tried to change the direction of his seating to address reporters. However, since reporters and their cameras were already on the east side of the room, he was forced to sit on the west side.

Tricolour umbrellas emerge a big draw

With dark clouds over Bengaluru ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, Congress workers distributed umbrellas in the colours of the national flag and Congress party. It turned into a crowd-puller, with many commuters and party supporters stopping to receive them. The move was seen as both a precaution against possible rain and a symbolic show of support for the new Congress govt.

Garland of notes

A supporter arrived at DK Shivakumar's home carrying a garland made of new currency notes to congratulate him. It drew attention and became a talking point for party workers and visitors gathered there.

Cheers from Sonia

DK Shivakumar said many party members including Sonia Gandhi called to wish him. "She always had a lot of trust in me. She urged me to take everyone along, and I assured her I would," he said.

Ritual-heavy optics define Shivakumar's swearing-in

Pearl Dsouza & Santosh Kumar B | TNN

Bengaluru: DK Shivakumar's original plan to embark on a short parade after taking oath did not materialise due to overcast conditions, time constraints and traffic issues. The programme was eventually cancelled, and he travelled in a convoy to Vidhana Soudha for the cabinet meeting.

Along the route, supporters raised slogans and played a customised song, cheering "DK Boss" and "Bande" (the rock). The new CM paid floral tributes to statues of Dr BR Ambedkar, Kempegowda, Basavanna and Jawaharlal Nehru on the lawns of Vidhana Soudha.

After brief photo opportunities, he proceeded to the cabinet meeting. In his office, he performed puja, with officials noting that he had the seating arrangement changed on the advice of astrologers. A photograph of Kaiwara Tatayya, a revered saint, was also installed.

The swearing-in ceremony unfolded with layered ritual and symbolism. He paid floral tributes to a portrait of Veera Gangadharayya Ajjayya, head of Sri Kadasiddeshwar Mutt, prostrated before the gathering and greeted several seers. His family members, including wife Usha and close relatives, were present throughout the ceremony.

Pics: TOI

BLESSINGS OF ALL! Prior to taking oath Wednesday, DK Shivakumar sought the good wishes of his mother Gowramma, JD(S) supremo and former PM HD Deve Gowda and Lok Sabha opposition leader Rahul Gandhi

Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Mutt presented a Bhairava garland, while Niranjanandapuri Swamiji of Kanaka Peetha draped a black woollen shawl. Other religious leaders offered rudraksha garlands. Christian clergy members placed a cross pendant around his neck, while Sant Sevalal Swamiji presented a Lambani-embroidered shawl.

A brief mix-up involving the playing of Vande Mataram and Karnataka's Nadageethe caused confusion at the beginning of the ceremony. It stemmed from chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh requesting the audience to stand for Vande Mataram. However, Nadageethe played instead. Officials quickly rectified the error by playing Vande Mataram.

Earlier in the day, he met former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda of JD(S) and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa of BJP and sought their blessings by touching their feet.

FROM THE OLD CABINET

G Parameshwara | 74 | KORATAGERE, TUMAKURU
Deputy CM | **Likely portfolio**: Social welfare

A veteran Congressman, Parameshwara has weathered political highs and lows with remarkable resilience. As state party president in 2013, he led Congress to victory despite losing his own seat. A four-time MLA, former home minister and now a two-time deputy chief minister, he remains one of Karnataka's most experienced Dalit representatives.

R Ramalinga Reddy | 72
BTM LAYOUT, BENGALURU URBAN
Likely portfolios: Transport and muzrai

One of Bengaluru's most recognisable faces, Ramalinga Reddy is an eight-time MLA known for his administrative experience and accessibility. A five-time transport minister, he has built a reputation for maintaining strong ties with grassroots workers while remaining a dependable hand in successive Congress govts.

MB Patil | 61
BABALESHWAR, VIJAYAPURA
Likely portfolio: Large and medium industries

Articulate and assertive, Patil has emerged as one of the most prominent Lingayat voices in Congress. A five-time MLA, he played a central role in the separate Lingayat religion movement and has earned praise for aggressively pursuing industrial investments and economic development.

KH Muniyappa | 78
DEVANAHALLI, BENGALURU RURAL
Likely portfolio: Food and civil supplies

A Congress stalwart with decades of parliamentary experience, Muniyappa served seven terms in the Lok Sabha before becoming MLA. Representing the influential SC Left community, he remains a key voice on social justice issues and a bridge between Karnataka politics and the party's central brass.

Priyank Kharge | 47
CHITTAPUR, KALABURAGI
Likely portfolios: Home, IT-BT

One of the youngest in Congress' senior ranks, Priyank blends political inheritance with a distinct identity of his own. Son of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, the three-time MLA is known for his sharp attacks on BJP, strong advocacy of constitutional values and prominence in the technology sector.

KJ George | 77
SARVAGNANAGAR, BENGALURU URBAN
Likely portfolio: Energy

Soft-spoken yet immensely influential, George is among Congress's most seasoned administrators. A six-time MLA, he has handled key portfolios and enjoys the trust of both the Gandhi family and state brass. Known for his consensus-building skills, George often plays mediator during internal party disagreements.

Krishna Byre Gowda | 53
BYATARAYANAPURA, BENGALURU URBAN
Likely portfolios: Finance, Revenue

Widely regarded as one of Congress's most policy-oriented members, Byre Gowda combines political experience with administrative depth. A five-time MLA, he has handled key portfolios and enjoys goodwill across party factions. His articulate style and reform-focused approach have made him a trusted face of governance.

Satish Jarkiholi | 64
YAMAKANAMARDI, BELAGAVI
Likely portfolio: Public works department

A master strategist who prefers results over rhetoric, Jarkiholi is one of north Karnataka's most influential Congress leaders. A prominent Nayak community face, he combines organisational acumen with political clout. Despite his low-key style, he remains a powerful force in both govt and party affairs.

Byrathi Suresh | 53
HEBBAL, BENGALURU URBAN
Likely portfolios: OBC welfare, Municipal administration

A loyal Siddaramaiah aide who rose steadily through the ranks, Suresh is known for his organisational skills and grassroots connect. A two-time MLA and former MLC, he has become a key player in Bengaluru politics and one of the former chief minister's closest political associates.

Eshwar Khandre | 64
BHALKI, BIDAR
Likely portfolio: Forest, ecology and environment

A prominent Lingayat representative from north Karnataka, Khandre combines political influence with strong community outreach. As president of the All India Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha, he commands considerable respect within the community. A four-time MLA, he represents a family deeply rooted in Karnataka politics.

Sharan Prakash Patil | 59
SEDAM, KALABURAGI
Likely portfolios: Medical education, Skills and livelihood

A doctor-turned-politician, Sharan Prakash Patil is a trusted Kharge family loyalist and a seasoned administrator. A four-time MLA, he has repeatedly handled medical education and health-related portfolios. Known for maintaining a low profile, Patil focuses more on governance than political theatrics.

—Sandeep Moudgal & Deepthi Sanjiv

Hariprasad is state party chief, Jarkiholi misses out

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@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In a move aimed at separating govt functioning from party administration, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) has appointed veteran and MLC BK Hariprasad as the new president of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).

The decision was finalised by Congress' high command in New Delhi following extensive deliberations involving party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi. AICC general secretary KC Venugopal formally announced the appointment, noting that Hariprasad would assume his organisational responsibilities with immediate effect.

The decision ends weeks of lobbying and marks a strategic pivot for the governing party in Karnataka. Hariprasad succeeds DK Shivakumar, who vacated the post Wednesday to take charge as the new CM. The outgoing president had successfully steered the party's state unit since July 2020 and engineered a decisive victory in the 2023 assembly elections.

However, unlike Shivakumar who held deputy CM post alongside his organisational role, Hariprasad is unlikely to be given a cabinet berth, allowing him to focus on organisational work full-time. Sources say central brass was firm on a strict 'one person, one post' policy.

HARIPRASAD SECURES TICKET FOR COUNCIL ELECTIONS

BK Hariprasad was among four names announced by Congress as candidates for elections to the legislative council. Tippannappa Kamaknoor, PV Mohan and Shivanna Mallvalli are the others. Nominations close on June 8 for the elections on June 18.

Setback for Jarkiholi

The selection of Hariprasad has dealt a political setback to minister Satish Jarkiholi, a prominent leader from the Nayaka community (ST) who had emerged as the frontrunner for the post. Backed by his growing influence in North Karnataka and his strong appeal among his community, Jarkiholi had lobbied hard for the position. He was keen to inherit Siddaramaiah's traditional Ahinda voter base and the CM post in 2028.

However, Siddaramaiah, who was reportedly upset with him for backing the change of guard and indirectly helping Shivakumar's cause, is said to have backed Hariprasad for the post.

Rahul also reportedly pushed back against consolidating major ministerial portfolios and organisational control with the same individuals. However, none objected to Jarkiholi's candidature, and some functionaries were understood to have even strongly supported his bid, citing his influence among Ahinda communities and his organisational reach in north Karnataka.

OBC factor

Hariprasad's elevation brings a seasoned institutional hand to the fore. A multiple-term former Rajya Sabha member and former AICC general secretary, the 72-year-old is widely recognised as an uncompromising ideological voice within Congress. He has been a fierce, vocal critic of PM Modi, BJP and RSS.

From the coastal region, Hariprasad was born into the politically significant Billava (OBC) community. His appointment follows a long tradition of Billava members steering the state unit, with Janardhana Poojary and former chief minister S Bangarappa previously occupying the post.

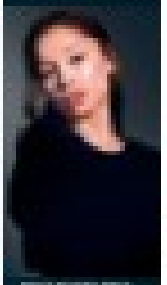
Personality is to man what perfume is to a flower —Charles Richards

UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Shilpa Shinde confesses false harassment allegations against 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain' producer

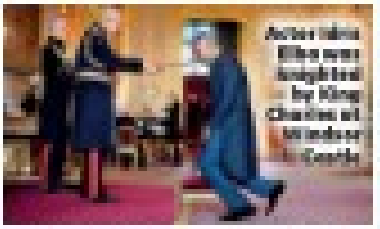
Anne Hendricks to direct adaptation of The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo

Actress Comedor's new video leaves fans worried



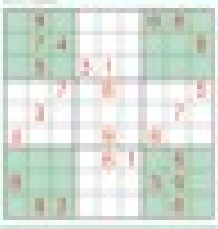
Japanese head spas have become America's new wellness craze

Kanye West draws 1.18,000 fans for Istanbul concert amid bans from other countries



Actor Idris Elba was knighted by King Charles at Windsor Castle

SUDOKU PUZZLE



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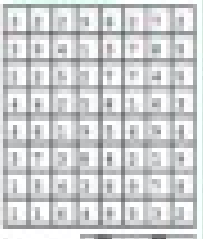
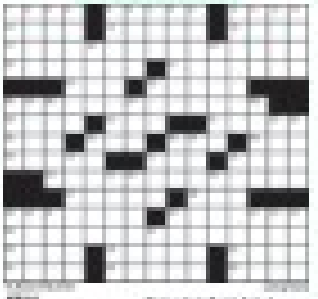
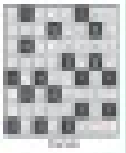


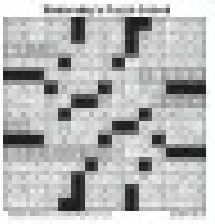
CRYPTOGRAM

CROSSWORD



WORD WHEEL





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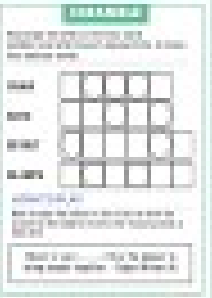
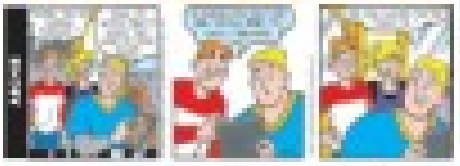
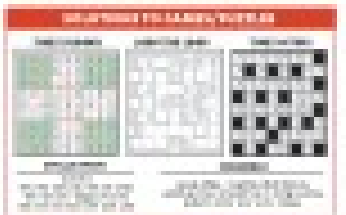




BUSINESS CONNECT



2nd chance soon for locked houses, residents cite gaps

Census Chief: Enumerators Will Ensure Better Coverage

Hamsaveni N & Niranjan Kaggere | TNN

Amid concerns of being left out, census director Ramachandran admitted achieving complete coverage in a city of Bengaluru's scale remains a challenge and the objective is to ensure omissions are minimal

Residents across several neighbourhoods of the city left out from the ongoing national census need not panic. GBA officials have clarified that households missed during the housing enumeration phase will be covered in the second phase.

The assurance has done little to quell the frustration of many citizens and resident welfare associations (RWAs). Entire streets and residential blocks (apartment complexes) were overlooked, leaving families excluded from a process that forms the basis for crucial policy decisions and allocation of govt resources.

The window for self-enumeration exercise was open from April 1 to 15, while door-to-door enumeration was carried out from April 16 to May 15. The omissions have prompted residents to question the authenticity and reliability of the data collected. Several residents have pointed to inconsistencies in the process, including inadequate verification and poor coordination.

"Our apartment building was never visited by any census field staff," said Anand R, a senior citizen from Jayanagar 4th T Block. "I heard several houses have been marked 'door locked'. I have been at home for a few months recovering from a surgery. But none came to our building for the exercise. We were unable to complete the self-enumeration because the window provided was too short."

A similar situation was reported from Manyata Residency in north Bengaluru. A resident said, "Enumerators appear to have visited just 30-40 of more than 200 houses in our complex. Even in the enumerated houses, residents said data collection was carried out by college students and many of them lacked basic communication skills. When residents raised objections, supervisors had to step in. Additionally, several residents who had completed self-enumeration found their data could not be retrieved on devices carried by the field staff."

"The situation is no different in our area," said Sushela Rai, a resident of Judicial Layout II Phase in Talaghattapura, south Bengaluru. "During the state census, enumerators visited our apartment and collected details. But not this time. When we contacted the authorities, we were told the portal had already been shut. I fail to understand why we have been left out when members of our family are at home throughout the day."

Census director Ramachandran admitted some households may have been missed during the exercise, but stressed that residents need not worry as they would be covered during the next phase of census operations.

He clarified that the enumeration portal has been frozen and no fresh entries could be made at this stage. According to him, authorities will take up complaints to ensure better coverage in the next phase. Ramachandran noted census teams used digital mapping, satellite imagery and layout maps to minimise omissions. Households were expected to be numbered, irrespective of whether they were occupied or locked.

While maintaining that Bengaluru had performed better than many other regions, he admitted that achieving complete coverage in a city of this scale remains a challenge. "The objective is to ensure omissions remain minimal and are addressed in the subsequent phase," he said.

ORR firms seek GBA action on infra issues

Bengaluru: Following Tuesday's downpour that left key stretches of Outer Ring Road (ORR) waterlogged, Outer Ring Road Companies' Association (ORRCA) appealed to Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to address chronic infrastructure issues, especially desilting of drains.

RAIN DAMAGE

Pre-monsoon rain had severely flooded prominent tech hub areas, including Panathur, Balagere and Varthur. It also triggered a massive traffic gridlock, trapping hundreds of IT employees and residents in hours-long commutes.

According to ORRCA, while the immediate trigger was heavy pre-monsoon rain Tuesday, the root causes behind the civic failure remain entirely unaddressed. They highlighted that the corridor suffers from blocked and poorly maintained shoulder drains alongside stormwater drains. Widespread encroachment of rajakaluves has drastically reduced their water-carrying capacity. Ongoing Metro and civic construction projects continue to disrupt existing road and drainage networks, ORRCA pointed out.

While emphasising that temporary relief is no longer acceptable, the association said long-term survival of the tech hub requires shifting away from superficial road repairs. Instead, it called for building integrated stormwater infrastructure that matches the scale and density of the IT corridor. TNN

Man loses ₹7.2L as crooks port mobile no. & access bank info

Chaithanya.Swamy
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Bengaluru: A suspected sim-swap fraud has left a 27-year-old man poorer by nearly Rs 7.2 lakh after cybercriminals allegedly ported his mobile number to another network without his knowledge, gained access to his banking credentials and siphoned off money from multiple accounts.

According to a complaint filed by Kamlesh Kumar, a resident of BTM Layout II Stage and a native of Bihar, he was using mobile number 8971923161 for the past 10 years. On May 25, he suddenly found his number was deactivated. When he visited an Airtel store the following day, he was reportedly informed the number had been ported to Jio network. Kumar told police this was done without his authorisation.

Enquiries at a Jio store reportedly revealed the sim card ownership was transferred to a person, identified as Shahbach Ansari, whom Kamlesh claimed he didn't know and has no connection with. Kumar subsequently filed a lost report at MICO Layout police station on May 27. However, the alleged fraud did not stop there. Between May 27 and May 29, fraudsters allegedly gained access to his bank accounts and carried out a series of unauthorised transactions. According to the complaint, funds were transferred from his overdraft account to his savings and current accounts before being routed to unknown ones.

Kamlesh told **TOI:** "I had purchased the sim card using my identity proof. I had linked the same mobile number to banking services. As I am working as a distributor in the city, I opened an overdraft account along with current and savings ones. The number was ported without my consent despite being used regularly. How can service providers be so negligent in allotting the number to someone else?"

"When I visited the offices of both service providers, they only informed me the sim was not registered in my name. They didn't share more details such as from where it was ported, in which city the number is being used or further information about Ansari," he added.

Kumar alleged the fraudsters and siphoned off Rs 7,17,660 from his accounts. They also changed the email ID linked to his accounts to sklove0143@gmail.com without his consent.

A case was registered under Sections 66(C) (punishment for identity theft) and 66(D) (punishment for cheating by personation using a computer resource) of Information Technology Act, and Sections 318 (cheating) and 319 (cheating by personation) of BNS at southeast cybercrime police station.

Residents pool money to keep Jalahalli Rd usable during rain

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TOI

IN SORRY STATE

Bengaluru: Residents of a large apartment complex in Jalahalli East have been contributing every year to keep a 100-metre stretch of road usable during monsoon. Reason: The city corporation or elected representatives haven't been able to provide a lasting solution.

Residents of Shriram Sameeksha apartment complex, which has over 1,000 homes, said they spend around Rs 80,000 annually to lay jelly stones on the stretch connecting Gangamma Gudi Police Station Road and Kuvempunagar.

According to residents, repeated appeals to civic authorities and elected representatives across party lines failed to resolve the issue. "We gave a written representation and authorities also visited the spot. But there has been no solution," said Unni Krishnan Menon, a retired navy veteran and resident of the apartment complex.

"Since the road is undeveloped, the surrounding space has become a dumpyard. There is another menace of drug addicts using the stretch for their activities," said resident Vivek Balaji.

Residents said an ongoing land litigation has prevented govt agencies from taking up permanent development works. The issue has also affected the locality's access to drinking water connections and BMTC bus services.

"The stretch has been used as a connecting road for over 10 years now, but it remains unsafe for commuters. There have been many incidents of people falling and getting injured here. Our request is to make the road safe at least till the legal issues are resolved," said Natesh Muthanna, secretary of Shriram Sameeksha Apartment Owners' Association.

Bengaluru North City Corporation's executive engineer Nagappa Kamati said several attempts were made by former corporators to get clearance by convincing the title holder of the land so that a road could be developed. "We can asphalt the stretch once we get clearance," he added.

DKS may keep fin portfolio, names adviser

▶ Continued from page 1

No women legislators were included in the initial round. With the state's total sanctioned ministry strength standing at 34, a second round of cabinet expansion is expected after Rajya Sabha elections scheduled for June 18.

The initial cabinet reflects a calculated attempt at social engineering. In terms of caste representation, three ministers each have been drawn from the politically dominant Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities, as well as Dalit communities. Kuruba community secured two berths, while Scheduled Tribes, Christian, and Muslim communities got one berth each. Sources said appointment of retired IAS officer LK Atheeq as financial adviser with immediate effect was an ample indication that Shivakumar might keep the finance portfolio with himself.

The event served as a major show of strength for Congress, drawing top national leadership, including AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

The event drew a star-studded crowd from Bengaluru's corporate, legal, and cultural fraternity, including Karnataka Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru, Infosys co-founders NR Narayana Murthy and Sudha Murty, and Nirmalanandanatha Swami of Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math. The sports and entertainment sectors were represented by KSCA president Venkatesh Prasad, cricketing legends Anil Kumble and Mohammad Azharuddin, actors Dhananjaya and Ramya, and music directors Arjun Janya and Gurukiran.

Swearing-in: Commuters stuck for hours as jams choke B'luru

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chethan Shivakumar

CHALLENGE AMPLIFIED: Heavy traffic on Kasturba Road Wednesday

Bengaluru: Chief minister DK Shivakumar's whirlwind tour across the city to meet political allies and rivals ahead of his swearing-in ceremony Wednesday evening triggered the one thing Bengalureans dread most: Traffic snarls!

Despite advance advisories from traffic police and some schools in central business district adjusting their schedules, commuters were caught in crawling and standstill traffic for hours. Shivakumar's surprise visits to senior leaders added to the congestion in north and south Bengaluru.

Around 11.20am, Shivakumar visited former CM and BJP veteran BS Yediyurappa at his residence in Dollars Colony, Sanjaynagar. After spending nearly 30 minutes there, he proceeded to the Padmanabhanagar residence of former PM and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda. The movement of his convoy led to temporary traffic restrictions and slowdowns in surrounding areas.

The worst impact, however, was felt in central Bengaluru, where thousands of motorists were stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic, that lasted for nearly five hours before and after the swearing-in ceremony at Lok Bhavan.

Commuters were diverted through longer routes via Kasturba Road, Hudson Circle, Anil Kumble Circle and Shivajinagar, causing delays for those travelling towards Mehkri Circle, Hebbal, Yelahanka and Kempegowda International Airport.

HC set to get 6 new judges

Bengaluru: The Supreme Court collegium Tuesday approved the proposal for appointment of six advocates — Raghavendra Seetharam Srivatsa, Hema Kulkarni, Subramanya Rangarao, Thadagavadi Prakash Vivekananda, Bakkeswara Pramod and Hombe Gowda Shanthi Bhushan — as judges of the high court. TNN

Lessons drawn from Ratan Tata

▶ Continued from page 1

The clubs will encourage sportspersons, support culturally inclined youth, promote awareness on communal harmony and create a new wave of leadership in the state," he said after the cabinet meeting.

The Rs 2,000-crore allocation for repair and reconstruction of roads is aimed at addressing long-pending infrastructure gaps, mainly in urban and semi-urban areas.

In a push towards employment generation, govt will launch a private sector job exchange portal within 30 days. The platform will be supported by training programmes for eligible candidates. "Govt will act as a facilitator for both employers and employees in the private sector. It will be ready within 30 days and a team of three cabinet ministers have been assigned to get it up and running," Shivakumar said.

Drawing inspiration from Ratan Tata, whom CM DK Shivakumar had met ahead of the construction of BIAL, the new CM said every decision will be a collective one. "When I met Ratan Tata, he had told me to create a consortium and not do it alone. He told me if you want to walk fast then walk alone but if you want to walk far then walk together. I intend to follow it by taking decisions collectively."

1ST DAY 1ST SHOW ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Free bus passes for all students in state, from school to post-graduation
- OC/CC exemption for sites up to 2,500 sqft or 60x40 sites
- Extension of B to A Khata conversion process across state
- ₹2,000-crore allocation for repair and reconstruction of roads in GBA limits
- Launch of private employment exchange portal within one month
- Publication of govt job vacancies calendar with recruitment timelines
- Setting up of 10,000 Bharat Jodo youth clubs across state
- Farmers' issues to be taken up through expert committee to decide relief measures

New Nimhans centre to study how music affects brain; Ilaiyaraaja to be its patron

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

IN CONVERSATION: Musician Ilaiyaraaja with Nimhans director Prabha S Chandra

Bengaluru: National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (Nimhans) Wednesday announced the setting up of a National Centre for Music, Brain, Mind and Health under the patronage of music composer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ilaiyaraaja.

The proposed centre, which will be set up in collaboration with Mercuri Foundation, aims to become India's first interdisciplinary national facility dedicated to studying the intersection of music, neuroscience, mental health, cognition, rehabilitation and technology.

According to Nimhans, the initiative seeks to advance research, clinical innovation, education and public engagement in areas related to music and human wellbeing. The centre will focus on understanding how music influences the brain, cognition, emotions and overall health, while developing evidence-based approaches that can be applied in healthcare and community settings.

"The centre aims to bridge traditional wisdom, artistic excellence and modern neuroscience to develop evidence-based approaches that can benefit individuals and communities alike. The patronage of Ilaiyaraaja adds a profound cultural and artistic dimension to the initiative," said a press release from Nimhans.

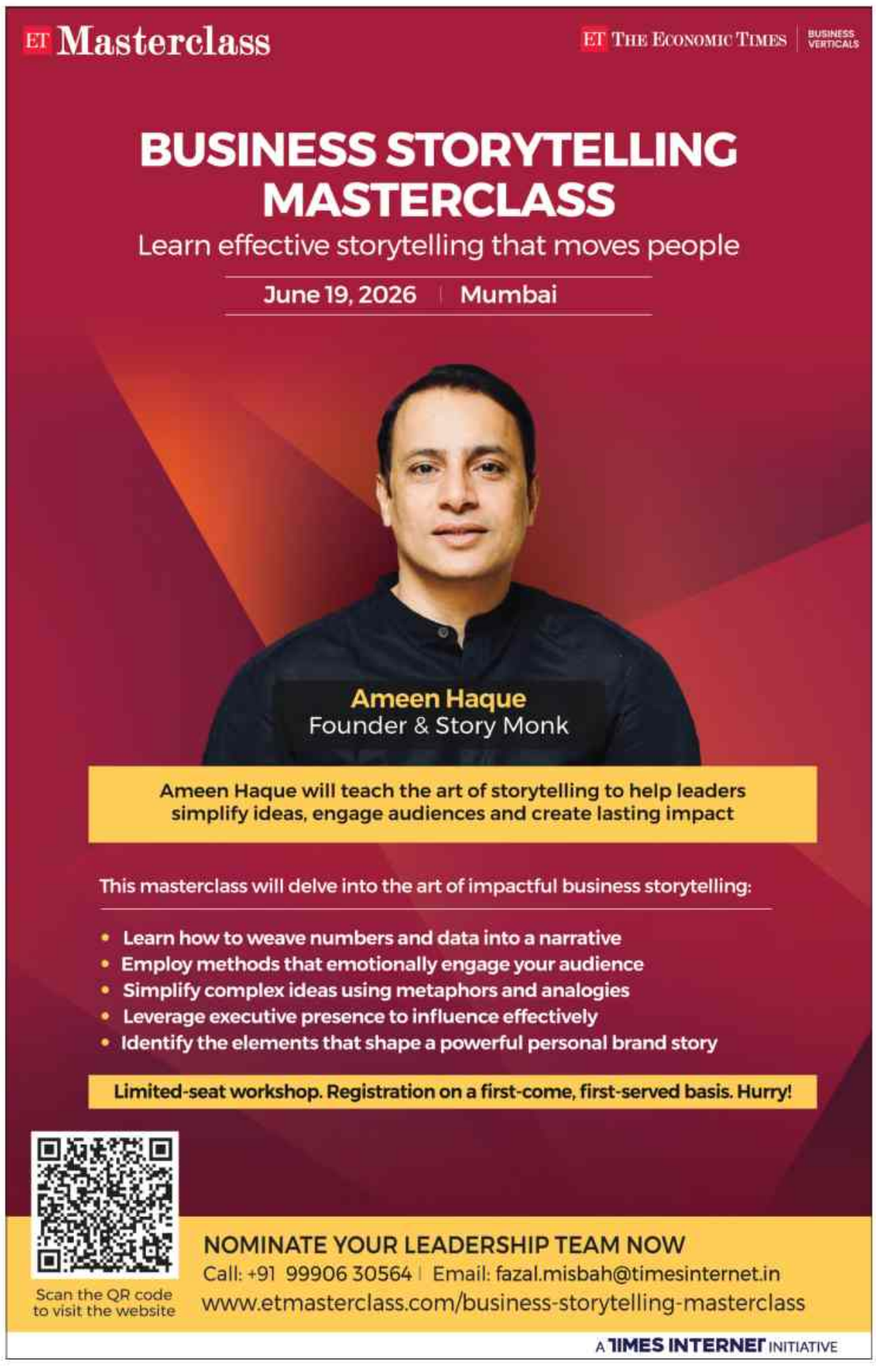
Since 2009, research has been on into how music interacts with the brain, cognition, emotion and mental health at Nimhans. The Music Cognition Laboratory — the country's first dedicated laboratory focused on music cognition and neuromusicology — was set up at Nimhans in 2011.

Experts call for bridging medicine-research gap

Bengaluru: As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly embedded in healthcare, experts are calling for a new generation of doctors who can bridge the worlds of medicine, technology and research. They caution that trust among doctors and patients will determine the success of AI adoption.

Speaking at the 15th edition of Lifesciences & Healthcare Innovation Forum (LHIF), organised by Nasscom Centre of Excellence (CoE) for IoT & AI Wednesday, healthcare leaders said AI is already transforming areas ranging from diagnosis and clinical documentation to drug discovery.

Highlighting the need for clinician-scientists, Dr Uma Nambiar, IISc Medical School Foundation CEO, said there are significant gaps in the healthcare innovation ecosystem that require professionals who understand both medicine and technology. TNN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Learn effective storytelling that moves people
June 19, 2026 | Mumbai
Ameen Haque
Founder & Story Monk
Ameen Haque will teach the art of storytelling to help leaders simplify ideas, engage audiences and create lasting impact
This masterclass will delve into the art of impactful business storytelling:
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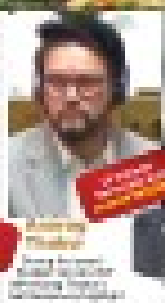

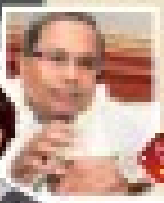

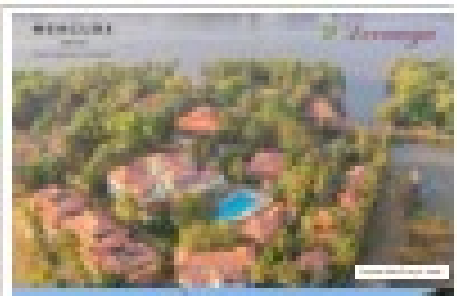

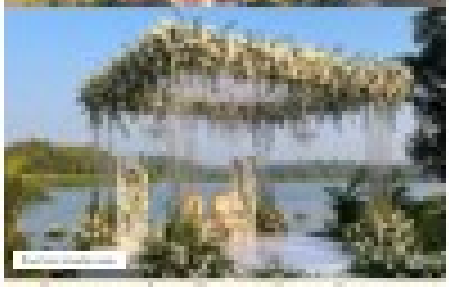

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India's leaders are wearing their wealth openly

Rooftop solar systems stuck in limbo amid OC confusion

Nearly 3L Households Unable To Connect To Power Grid

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesofindia.com

File photo

UTILISATION OF SOLAR ROOFTOPS

Bengaluru: Every day, enough solar power to light up thousands of households is being generated on rooftops across Karnataka — only to be wasted. Caught in a regulatory limbo triggered by confusion over occupancy certificates (OC) following a Supreme Court order, nearly 3 lakh households with rooftop solar systems remain unable to connect to the power grid for close to a year, resulting in an estimated loss of 23 MW of clean energy generation daily. The delay in linking these units to the grid is also burning a hole in the pockets of property owners.

Karnataka State Licensed Electrical Contractors' Association (KSLECA) recently estimated that 15-16 lakh applications from newly constructed households are pending for smart meter installation, despite govt relaxation of the OC requirement for buildings built on 30x40ft plots. A fresh assessment by Karnataka Renewable Energy Association (KREA), which represents solar panel distributors, indicates that nearly three lakh households have already installed rooftop solar units but are yet to be integrated with the grid because of continuing confusion over the OC requirement.

Raghunandan SS, president of KREA, said, "These numbers include both those who have availed the subsidy and those using non-subsidy methods. It has been several months since they installed these rooftop units. But not one has been linked to the grid as they have not secured OC from the town planning authorities. In the absence of OC, electrical supply companies (Escoms) have not linked these units with the grid by installing meters. Going by our statewide estimation, at least Rs 150 crore of investment in rooftop solar units, capable of generating 23 MW of power every day, remains idle as the govt is dragging its feet over resolving the issue."

Stating that grid synchronisation requires approvals linked to electricity connections and property documentation, Sesha Prasanna N, vice-president of KREA, said, "... Without that connectivity and net-metering permissions from Escoms, property owners cannot utilise the full benefits of rooftop solar. While a major portion of these buildings are in and around Bengaluru, many are also awaiting permission in other major cities and towns of Karnataka."

Big buildings to get respite from OC rule

Months after relaxing the mandatory OC requirement for properties built on 30x40ft plots in Bengaluru and within the jurisdiction of urban municipalities and gram panchayats, govt is now considering extending the relief to larger buildings.

"Recently, a proposal to relax mandatory OC rules for buildings measuring around 2,400 sqft-2,500 sqft was discussed informally. However, before a detailed discussion could be held, the cabinet was dissolved," said an official from the urban development department.

On Wednesday, new CM DK Shivakumar resolved to exempt buildings built on upto 2,500 sqft plot from the OC rule. "Such structures with deviations of less than 20% until May 31 will be exempted from OC requirement. Owners must apply to local bodies with photographs and videos of their buildings," Shivakumar said.

Man secretly films apartment resident while she's showering

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 28-year-old woman staying in an apartment alleged that an unidentified man secretly recorded her while she was bathing in her bathroom on May 31.

The Green Glen Layout resident said the incident occurred around 8.15pm when she was taking bath. She was shocked to notice a mobile phone near the bathroom window being used to record the video.

She told police the phone was sea-green in colour and featured a dual-camera setup. She said the suspect was wearing a grey T-shirt.

Realising she was being filmed, the woman raised an alarm. The accused, however, fled the spot before he was identified. A case has been filed under Section 66E of Information Technology Act (punishment for violation of privacy) and Section 77 (voyeurism) of BNS.

A senior police officer said CCTV cameras of the building and surrounding areas are being verified to ascertain clues.

Labourer mowed down by speeding bike gets ₹6.7 lakh

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

CONSUMER IS KING

Bengaluru: After being knocked down by a speeding motorcycle while walking home and sustaining grievous injuries and loss of pay, a daily- wage labourer fought a lengthy legal battle for securing compensation.

The saga began on May 10, 2023, when Shiva Kumar, a 49-year-old resident of Nelamangala taluk, was walking along Shivagange- Kudur Road at 6.20pm. The rider of the motorcycle, owned by Gangamma of Koratagere taluk, Tumakuru district, came at high speed in a rash and negligent manner and dashed against him. Kumar fell to the ground and sustained serious injuries — displaced fractures to his left ankle and multiple fractures to the metatarsal bones of his right foot.

Kumar was rushed to the district general hospital, Tumakuru. He was discharged with advice for surgery and subsequently admitted to Sridevi Medical College Hospital, Tumakuru, on May 21, where he underwent internal fixation for the left ankle fracture. The right foot fractures were treated conservatively with plaster application.

Kumar was discharged on May 30 after a 10-day stay, with advice for regular follow-up treatment and bed rest.

Dobbaspet police registered a case against the motorcycle rider.

Kumar filed a petition before Motor Accident Claims Tribunal-3, seeking Rs 30 lakh in compensation, alleging that on account of the accidental injuries, he was unable to work and had incurred huge expenses towards medical treatment. Prior to the accident, he claimed he was healthy, earning Rs 22,000 per month as a labourer. But the insurer, Chola MS General Insurance Company Ltd, contested the claim, stating the vehicle lacked a valid fitness certificate as on the date of the accident and that the compensation sought was highly exorbitant.

After hearing both sides, the tribunal examined witnesses, including a hospital records officer and the doctor who assessed Kumar's disability at 22%. Since the doctor hadn't treated him or reviewed follow-up records, functional disability was fixed at 20%. The insurer's manager admitted the vehicle was insured and the rider licensed, weakening its defence and leading the tribunal to reject alleged policy violations.

The tribunal bench headed by BS Honnaswamy, VII Additional SCJ and ACJM, Member MACT-3 on May 2, directed insurance company to pay a total compensation of Rs 6.7 lakh with interest at 6% per annum from the date of petition till realization.

Govt: Maximum intake in course restricted to 60

▶ Continued from page 1

Thus, some seats have not been included in the published seat matrix. "The govt has restricted maximum intake in a course in any new college to 60. Even if there are some colleges that have got permission for more than 60, those aren't considered. In such cases, the institutions must submit a National Board of Accreditation certificate and the enhanced seats will be added later," said a govt order. Similarly, intake for any course in an existing college is 180. For computer science, related streams, maximum intake is set at 900.

Scanning happens in colleges under CCTV surveillance, web streaming: V-C

▶ Continued from page 1

That made me realise digital valuation had the potential to be a game-changer," said H Maheshappa, former V-C of VTU. "Being a technological university, we had enough tech support from faculty. Also, we ran a pilot for two exams where evaluation was done manually as well as digitally. Only when we were convinced of the efficiency, we went completely online, he added.

Soon, many more state universities started adopting a similar system. Bangalore University bought software from VTU and customised it in 2018-19. Its faculty received training from VTU.

"The number of question papers and the various patterns for all courses, both UG and PG, is very complex. The total number of question papers generated annually in BU is 4,084. The answer scripts are scanned by in-house scanners (42 scanners) and securely stored on the servers," said a BU official.

RGUHS vice-chancellor Bhagwan BC said scanning happens in the respective college under CCTV surveillance and live web streaming. A central monitoring centre monitors the process. "In centres where we do valuation, each teacher is given a unique ID. A facial-recognition system is used for them to log in. They have to enter their code and then the question paper opens and they evaluate it," he explained.

In many state universities, for UG programmes, there is one evaluation, followed by a review where an answer script is randomly reviewed for every 10 scripts. For PG programmes, there are two valuators per script and a third evaluator in case of a difference of more than 15 marks between the two.

Robber attacks delivery agent, flees with cash & mobile phone

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

DESPERATE ESCAPE

Bengaluru: A food-delivery agent was allegedly assaulted while trying to stop an intruder, who entered his rented house and fled with cash and a mobile phone in the wee hours of Sunday.

Shyamal, a resident of 5th Cross, Anepalya, and a native of West Bengal, said in his complaint that he and roommate Nitai Das returned home late at night after work. Around 1.35am, a miscreant sneaked into their second-floor residence and latched the bathroom door from outside after learning that someone was inside. The intruder then entered the kitchen and attacked Shyamal, who was busy cooking, from behind. Shyamal told **TOI**, "I didn't notice what the weapon was, but he slashed me multiple times in my back. When I turned around, he warned me not to resist. I tried to raise the alarm, but he assaulted me again. I had to remain silent."

The miscreant then entered the bedroom and allegedly stole a mobile phone belonging to Das, Rs 2,750 in cash from Shyamal's trouser pocket and his bike key.

Realising that the intruder was attempting to flee, Shyamal confronted him and grabbed his legs. However, the miscreant struck him on the head and fled the house, Shyamal told police.

A senior police officer said, "The CCTV camera installed in the building captured visuals of the miscreant, but the images seem to be unclear. We are verifying footage from adjacent buildings." A case has been registered.

Corpn to serve compound wall violation notices

Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) directed officials to identify residential and commercial buildings with compound walls exceeding the permissible height prescribed under National Building Code (NBC) and issue notices to owners for compliance.

BECC commissioner DS Ramesh issued the directive Wednesday during a review meeting. Officials were told to conduct inspections and initiate action against violations. The commissioner ordered immediate identification of dilapidated and structurally unsafe buildings that pose a threat to public life and property. TNN

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRIYA SAHA W/o Saurav Jalan, Residing at The Tree By Provident, Block 1 A, 205, Ward No-72, 2nd Main Road, Herohalli, Bengaluru-560091 have changed my name to PRIYA SAHA JALAN vide Affidavit dated 03.06.2026 sworn before notary H R Karunakara, Bengaluru.
I, N.R.Govindrajugupta (Old name), S/o N.Raghavaiah Shetty residing at No. 68/6, Achuta Ranga Nilaya, Kote Beedhi, Near GGMS School, Nelamangala, Bangalore - 562123, changed my name from N.R.Govindarajugupta to N.R.Govindarajaguptha. vide affidavit date 02/06/2026 sworn before notary R. Lakshminarayana, Henceforth I shall be known as N.R.Govindarajaguptha for all purposes.
I, IVY ELIZABETH PREMA PAUL, W/o. late. Mr. Israel Sahayam Dayala Christopher, R/at #33/1, Harris Road, Benson Town Post, Bengaluru 560046, declare that all the names IVY ELIZABETH PREMA PAUL and PREMA CHRISTOPHER / PREMA CRISTOPHER refers / pertains to one and the same person i.e., myself & for all official purposes, I may be known & called as IVY ELIZABETH PREMA PAUL vide Affidavit Dt: 25/04/2026 sworn before Notary SIVAKUMARA M N, B'luru.

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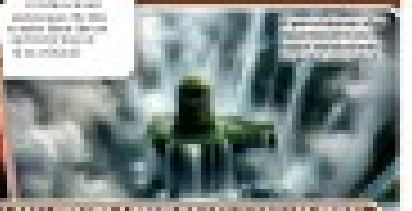
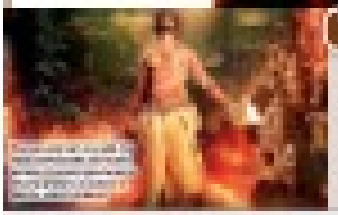
ARYAN SANTOSH ON USING AI IN FILMMAKING

'Technology should support the story, not become the story'

'AI-generated visuals often lack the precision and control required for complex filmmaking'

'Authenticity and consistency remain key challenges'





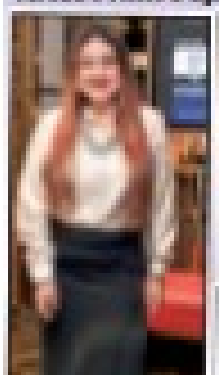
AI CAN CREATE A TEMPORARY 'GOOD FACTOR' BUT SPECTACLE ALONE DOESN'T ENDURE

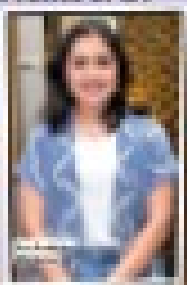
We'll sit with producer bodies & arrive at a fair solution: FWICE

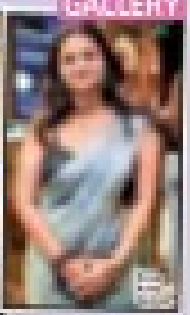
'We were willing to listen to both sides'

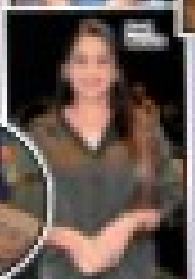
Priyanka Upendra hosts a special screening of her latest film September 21

GALLERY









I am a very romantic person: Medha Shankr

TIMES NATION

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

KARUNANIDHI SPENT HIS LIFE FIGHTING FOR DIGNITY OF TAMIL PEOPLE: RAHUL HAILS EX-CM ON BIRTH ANNIV

CM BHAGWANT MANN SAYS PUNJAB GOVT WILL BRING IN A NEW LAW TO CAP PVT SCHOOL FEE HIKE TO 5%

HACK OF THE DAY — **SHARE A YOUTUBE VIDEO FROM THE EXACT SECOND**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Saves people from watching a long video just to find the one useful moment you wanted them to see

WHAT TO DO: Use YouTube's share-at-timestamp option instead of sending the full video link without context

STEPS:

1. **Open** the YouTube video
2. **Move** to the exact moment you want to share
3. **Tap** Share
4. **Turn on** the timestamp option if it appears
5. **Send** the link so the video opens at that moment

NOTE: This is perfect for tutorials, interviews, recipes, speeches, lectures, product reviews, and news clips

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Minor beaten to death by mom's lover

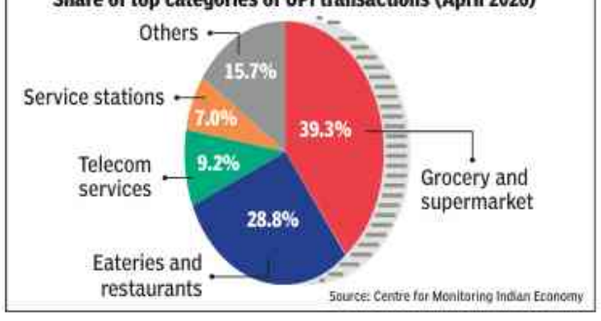
A four-year-old boy was allegedly beaten to death by his mother's lover in Thane district, with police yet to determine the motive. The accused, Shambhu Sharma, was arrested after cops grew suspicious during initial probe into the child's death on Monday. Police said Sharma allegedly assaulted the boy at home and tried to pass off the death as natural. Injury marks noticed during the panchnama led to a post-mortem, which confirmed death due to severe internal injuries. Sharma later confessed, police told reporters. PTI

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Groceries to bills: What's driving UPI's growth?

UPI transactions rose to Rs 29 lakh crore in April 2026 from Rs 23.9 lakh crore a year ago, with over half of merchant payments happening in everyday categories like groceries, telecommunication bills and dining

Share of top categories of UPI transactions (April 2026)



Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

Winds of change in Bengal, TN may steady NDA's ship in Parl

TMC & DMK Had United With SP & Cong To Thwart Women Quota Bill

Kumar.Rakesh@timesofindia.com

Speaker Rathindra Bose receives a letter proposing the name of Ritabrata Banerjee for the post of opposition leader, in Kolkata on Wednesday

New Delhi: Just when it appeared that a united opposition can derail govt's ambitious legislative agenda and disturb its narrative—drilled home by the defeat of its bill to amend women's reservation law in LS in last session—a smoother road appears to have opened up for BJP-led NDA in and outside Parliament as two of its strongest regional rivals grapple with political challenges.

While former Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee-led TMC is staring at an existential threat as a rebel faction of 58 of its total 80 MLAs elected Ritabrata Banerjee as the leader of opposition against her choice, marking the first split in the party she founded it in 1998, DMK is weighing its options after Congress dumped it for Vijay-led TVK in Tamil Nadu.

It was the coming together of three regional parties, Samajwadi Party besides TMC and DMK, with Congress which had sealed the fate of govt's constitution amendment bill in Lok Sabha, as they together at 185 MPs made up for over one-third of total House strength, the required number to block such a legislative measure.

With TMC in disarray and DMK unlikely to be as warm to a Congress-led alliance it was so far, BJP is in a better position than ever in the House since the 2024 polls to exploit faultlines in the opposition to its advantage. There have already been murmurs that some of opposition MPs from Maharashtra are open to changing allegiance.

A TMC MP told **TOI** that he does not see an immediate formation of a rebel group of two-third MPs, required to pass the muster under the anti-defection law, but added that it cannot be ruled out. "Nobody could have conceived such a split among TMC MLAs. So you cannot rule out anything," he said.

The dissent, which is ostensibly directed at Mamata's perceived heir apparent and nephew Abhishek Banerjee's sway in the party, is unlikely to leave TMC's 28 MPs in LS and 13 in RS entirely unaffected, he added.

In TN, DMK's main rivalry is now with TVK, a Congress ally, and the view within BJP is that it will trade its reflexive hostility to the Centre with a more pragmatic approach.

The changed equation within the opposition and the recent assembly polls underlining BJP's dominant position, govt now hopes to push its ambitious legislative agenda, which includes a simultaneous elections, with renewed vigour.

Didi represents 'real' TMC, claim loyalists

Kolkata: Loyalist TMC lawmakers threw their weight behind founder Mamata Banerjee even as a rebel faction led by expelled legislator Ritabrata Banerjee claimed the leader of opposition seat.

"Mamata Banerjee represents the real TMC. The very woman who gave birth to the party, the mother of Trinamool Congress is, by definition, the true Trinamool Congress," said Beleghata MLA and party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, adding, "Trinamool means Mamata Banerjee and Mamata Banerjee means Trinamool. All the workers are with Didi." He questioned how an expelled MLA could function as leader of opposition. Ghosh also rejected claims that the party had ceased to exist, clarifying that only party committees had been dissolved. Madan Mitra, the Kamarhati MLA and one of Mamata's earliest associates, attacked BJP for backing an expelled neta in the house. TNN

Crisis in TMC, most vociferous critic of BJP, may hit INDIA bloc

Ambika.Pandit@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As TMC faces its biggest crisis, there is growing speculation over the future of its contingent of MPs in LS and RS, the impact developments in Bengal will have on the heft of the second-largest opposition party within INDIA bloc and the ramifications on opposition's capacity to take on the govt, especially as the Mamata Banerjee-led party has been among the most vocal critics of the BJP-led govt at the Centre.

How the split within TMC plays out at the national level will be keenly watched in the coming days. Significantly, INDIA bloc is scheduled to meet after a long gap on June 8. According to party sources, Mamata and Abhishek Banerjee plan to attend and seek support from opposition parties amid the latest developments.

In Delhi, most TMC MPs remained tight-lipped. A neta, however, stressed the need for unity in Parliament and accused BJP of pursuing "Op Lotus".

The upcoming monsoon session will be a major test. TMC's influence within INDIA bloc is expected to diminish following the WB setback, potentially increasing Congress's leverage. The shifting dynamics are likely to be evident at INDIA bloc's meet, especially with DMK yet to confirm its participation.

Modi to become India's longest-serving elected head of govt on June 10

Kumar.Rakesh
@timesofindia.com

Modi will be in office for 4,399 days, edging past Nehru's 4,398 from May 13,1952 till his death in harness on May 27, 1964

New Delhi: Come June 10 and PM Modi will have the distinction of having the longest unbroken stint as an elected head of govt, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru after discounting the first term of the Congress stalwart before India held its maiden general election in 1951-52.

Since he led BJP to its maiden majority in Lok Sabha and took oath as PM on May 26, 2014 and June 10 this year, Modi will be in office for 4,399 days, edging past Nehru's 4,398 from May 13,1952 till his death in harness on May 27, 1964. Nehru's daughter Indira Gandhi had an unbroken stint in office for 4,077 days between Jan 24, 1966 and Mar 24, 1977.

The lodestar of "secular consensus" named after him, Nehru continued to shape Indian politics for decades after his death until the arrival of Modi, who has rewritten political grammar using a blend of development and cultural nationalism imbued with Hindutva, and both leaders could not be more different in their personal journey and political beliefs.

Modi has been a trenchant critic of Nehru and has constantly argued that he was an imposed choice and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel would be the first PM as he was nominated by 12 of the 15 state panels, according to several historical accounts. With Mahatma Gandhi, the revered leader of the freedom movement, favouring Nehru, Patel withdrew and agreed to be his deputy. That Nehru led Congress in an era where it was seen as a vehicle of independence struggle and thus a natural choice for governance with little nation-wide opposition to speak of is something that has been emphasised by BJP functionaries and acknowledged by independent commentators.

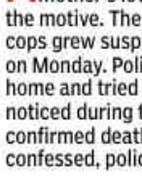
Modi, they note, rose in a deeply contested political environment and fought against odds to first win three successive assembly elections in Gujarat as CM, and then rallied his party against the governing Congress-led UPA to storm to power with a clear majority, a first for BJP, and reducing Congress to its worst every tally.

In the process, he has also equalled another feat of Nehru, which is to lead his alliance to three consecutive terms in office.

Modi's tenure has been marked by milestones considered inconceivable before he took office, including the repeal of Art 370, abolition of triple talaq, and construction of Ram temple, which, though facilitated and approved by SC, could not have been possible under Nehru.

19,000 of 1.2L CAA applicants Indian citizens now: Suvendu

Kolkata: Of the 1.2 lakh Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) applicants in Bengal, 19,000 have already been granted Indian citizenship certificates, CM Suvendu Adhikari said Wednesday after a cabinet meeting at Nabanna. Those with pending CAA applications would also be considered eligible for the state's Annapurna Yojana scheme, the CM added.



The CAA, which came into effect in Bengal from March 2024, grants a pathway to citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who entered India before the cut-off date of Dec 31, 2014.

To handle the surge in CAA applications, the Centre has set up two additional empowered committees in Bengal to expedite decision-making on pending cases. A significant share of applicants is from the Matua community. TNN

If TMC splits, speaker's role key in recognising 'real party'

AmitAnand.Choudhary
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New Delhi: As Trinamool Congress stares at its biggest crisis with a faction claiming the support of 58 of 80 MLAs, the role of the West Bengal assembly speaker will be decisive in recognising one camp as the "original party"—as happened in the case of Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

The Constitution's Tenth Schedule bars the "constitutional sin" of defection. After the deletion of 'Paragraph 3' from the schedule in 2003, the defence of 'split' is no longer available to members facing disqualification proceedings. Hence, in cases where a split has occurred in a political or legislature party, neither faction can validly claim they are the "original party" in the event that each files a petition for disqualification of the other's members.

While hearing Shiv Sena's plea, Supreme Court had said, "Regardless of the defence available to members who face disqualification proceedings, the speaker may be called upon to determine who the 'real' political party is while adjudicating disqualification petitions under Paragraph 2(1)(a) where two or more factions of the political or legislature party have arisen."

"The effect of the deletion of Paragraph 3 is that both factions cannot be considered to constitute the original political party. In order to determine which (if any) of the members of the party have voluntarily given up membership of the political party under Paragraph 2(1)(a), it is necessary to first determine which of the factions constitute the political party," it said.

The speaker must consider the constitution of the party as well as any other rules and regulations which specify the structure of its leadership, SC had said.

"If the rival groups submit two or more versions of the party constitution, the speaker must consider the version which was submitted to Election Commission before the rival factions emerged. In other words, the speaker must consider the version of the party constitution which was submitted to EC with the consent of both factions," SC had said, adding that this would obviate a situation where both factions attempt to amend the constitution to serve their own ends.

SC had further added that the speaker must not base the decision on a "blind appreciation" of which group had the majority in the assembly. "This is not a game of numbers, but of something more. The structure of leadership outside the legislative assembly is a consideration which is relevant to the determination of this issue," it had said.

Teachers' case: ED summons Abhishek

Hours after Abhishek Banerjee moved the Calcutta high court on Wednesday seeking protection from any coercive action by CID in the MLA signatures forgery case, ED issued summons to the Trinamool Congress national general secretary in the teachers' recruitment case. He was asked to appear at ED's Kolkata zonal office on June 15 in connection with the probe into the alleged irregularities in primary teachers' appointments. TNN

Steer our faction, rebels urge Mamata, slam Abhishek

Kolkata: Ritabrata Banerjee, who claimed the leader of opposition seat at the Bengal assembly on Wednesday with support of 58 of the party's 80 MLAs, said they would be treated as equals and not as servants even as he blamed party MP Abhishek Banerjee for Trinamool's downfall.

"I am not a boss. This new Trinamool Congress legislative party has no single leader. Nobody is a master or a servant," the MLA from Uluberia East told reporters shortly after Speaker Rathindra Bose accepted their claim.

The rebels urged former CM Mamata Banerjee to distance herself from the current party management and steer their assembly faction instead. "We request Mamata Banerjee to remain our adviser," Sandipan Saha, one of the four who were appointed deputy leaders of opposition by Ritabrata, said, adding they would formally write to her for her margdarshan (guidance). The rebel bloc, however, said there was no place for Abhishek in the party. TNN

Abhishek Banerjee has no relation with this legislative party: Ritabrata

▶ Continued from page 1

We will request her to remain our chief adviser and guide this legislative party inside and outside the assembly. We appeal to her to recognise us as we have two-thirds majority. Abhishek Banerjee has no relation with this legislative party," he said.

The rebels also proposed that former ministers Javed Khan (Kasba) and Sabina Yeasmin (Sujapur), along with Seuli Saha (Keshpur) and Saha, be recognised as deputy leaders of the opposition. Raghunathgunj MLA Akhruzzaman will be the chief whip.

Ritabrata said speaker Bose accepted all the recommendations of the rebel bloc, which includes 17 Muslim MLAs.

The legislature party split was the culmination of several days of events over which Mamata, Abhishek and their loyalists appeared to have little control. It all started with the party brass proposing veteran Sobhandeb Chatopadhyay for the post of leader of the opposition on May 9, a pick that snowballed into an internal row after Ritabrata and Sandipan complained to the speaker that their signatures and those of several other MLAs on the recommendation letter had been forged.

CM Suvendu Adhikari latched onto the complaint, prompting the administration to set up a special investigation team to probe forgery charges in which Abhishek was named the main accused.

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Important Dates

Issue of Applications (online only)	04.06.2026 -31.07.2026
Entrance Examination	09.08.2026
Announcement of Results	25.08.2026
Interview & Counselling for Shortlisted Candidates	By- 05.09.2026
Announcement of Selected Candidates	22.09.2026
Document Verification & collection	05.10.2026 to 15.10.2026
Payment of Fees & Enrolment of Ph.D.	By- 23.10.2026
Commencement of Course work Classes	14.11.2026

Website Link for Application: https://www.reva.edu.in/phd-admissions

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'Coalition dharma' on display as Vijay allots lone RS seat to Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Chief minister C Joseph Vijay handed Wednesday the lone Rajya Sabha seat that fell vacant in Tamil Nadu to Congress, a move seen as further knitting together TVK and the national party after their post-poll understanding. Congress sources said AICC functionary **Praveen Chakravarthy** is the frontrunner for nomination to Upper House.

Vijay's announcement came shortly after AICC's Tamil Nadu in-charge Girish Chodankar met him. Chodankar said Vijay's move reflected "coalition dharma", mutual respect and a shared commitment to democratic values.

"Vijay has proved that he is a man of his word. By honouring his commitment and standing firmly by his promise, he has demonstrated principled leadership, political integrity and respect for alliance partners. This decision reinforces faith in coalition politics based on trust and mutual respect," Chodankar said.

Former Union finance minister P Chidambaram had also called on Vijay at the secretariat a day earlier, adding to speculation over the seat-sharing arrangement.

The vacancy arose after former AIADMK MP C Ve Shanmugam resigned from RS following his victory in April assembly elections. June 8 is the deadline for filing nominations. Scrutiny is scheduled for June 9, withdrawals can be made until June 11, and polling, if required, will be held on June 18.

Congress insiders said allocation of RS berth was part of a post-election pact struck after party's five MLAs threw their weight behind TVK govt following assembly poll results.

'Suffocated' Hakim may quit as Kolkata mayor

Saikat Ray@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: City mayor Firhad Hakim, reportedly rattled by the loss of control over Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) after TMC's assembly poll defeat, is likely to step down this week, possibly on Friday.

Hakim is said to have told party chairperson Mamata Banerjee that he was feeling "suffocated", and sought her permission to resign. "I have not resigned," Hakim said after a brief visit to the KMC headquarters on Wednesday, amid speculation that he had put in his papers. His denial notwithstanding, the buzz around Hakim's resignation intensified after TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said the mayor wanted "a dignified exit" as the state govt had effectively rendered the civic body "defunct".

"Firhad Hakim requested Mamata Banerjee to relieve him from the post of mayor as he could not work at all," Ghosh said.

Annamalai remains firm on BJP exit, to spell out plans tomorrow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Former BJP TN state president K Annamalai would not withdraw his resignation from the party despite senior national netas asking him to reconsider his decision, sources close to him told **TOI**. He is expected to meet reporters on Friday to spell out his plans.

Since Monday, Annamalai has been in Delhi, where he met BJP national president Nitin Nabin and submitted his resignation. Later, he called on party general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh and Union minister Amit Shah. Sources said party veterans tried to prevail on Annamalai that "he had a bright future in BJP", but he remained firm on his decision.

"His is not an overnight decision, it was a well thought-out one," said a source close to the former IPS officer who had been internally arguing against BJP's alliance with AIADMK in the recent assembly election. "For the past 18 months, he has been struggling to convince the leadership that BJP should chart its own course in Tamil Nadu, but the national leadership wasn't listening. He decided to leave the party and launch one of his own more than three months ago," said the source.

It was a relatively quiet day for BJP state president Nainar Nagenthran, who was called to Delhi following Annamalai's resignation. He had a short meeting with agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan on Wednesday afternoon, but could not meet the top brass as Amit Shah had left for Tripura and Nabin was away in Bihar.

Annamalai is expected to fly back from Delhi on Thursday, which happens to be his 42nd birthday.

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State.

No.: V.T.U./BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No. 30/985 Date : 03-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (K.P.P. Portal Only) 2nd Call

The E-Tenders are invited induplicate from eligible tenderers, registered Contractor, **by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18,** under Standard Tender Document Procedure K/W Format for the **Work of Fabricating, Supplying, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Polygon High Mast at VTU, Regional Centre's (Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Muddenahalli, Davangere, Choranahalli) and Belagavi amounting to Rs. 2,97,30,890/- (Excluding GST) 2nd Call** .Other details log on to **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on Date : 04-06-2026.**

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ई-मेल : info.mptbc@mp.gov.in, वेबसाइट-mptbc.mp.gov.in
क्रमांक/5871/पापुनि/ उपार्जन/2026 भोपाल, दिनांक 03.06.2026

मध्यप्रदेश के शासकीय स्कूलों के विद्यार्थियों के लिये गणवेश प्रदाय हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

(निविदा क्रमांक-Proc-12/2026-2027)

म.प्र. के शासकीय विद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत कक्षा 1 से 8 तक के विद्यार्थियों के लिये गणवेश प्रदाय हेतु दिनांक 27.06.2026 समय सायं 5:30 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमंत्रित है, जो कि ई-टेण्डरिंग पोर्टल **https://mptenders.gov.in** पर दिनांक 05.06.2026 समय सायं 05.00 बजे से देखी जा सकती है। निविदा के संबंध में जानकारी हेतु 24x7 हेल्प डेस्क नम्बर 0120-4001 002/0120-4200 462/0120-4001 005/0120-6277 787 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है। उक्त निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण एवं संशोधन/परिवर्तन/शुद्धिपत्र (यदि कोई होवें) तो उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध होंगे।

म.प्र. माध्यम/126168/2026 **प्रबंध संचालक**

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(ನ್ಯಾಕ್ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಃ+ ಗ್ರೇಡ್ – 2021) PM-USHA (MERU)
E-mail: registrar@rcub.ac.in, aee@rcub.ac.in Phone No.: 0831-2565234/42

Ref No: RCU/Belagavi/RO/BS/2026-27/1178 Date:03.06.2026

PRESS NOTE
Tender Notification

The Registrar, Rani Channamma University Belagavi invites tender for following work on 03.06.2026. Desired eligible Bidder may apply through KPPP Portal. The work's amount put to tender & EMD details are given as below. For further information kindly visit **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal, University website **www.rcub.ac.in** or the Engineering Division at

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Last Date of Receipt
1	Providing fencing work for new campus of RCU, Hirebagewadi, Belagavi (RCUB/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT17	Rs. 65 Lakhs	Rs. 1,30,000.00	18.06.2026
Short Term Tender Notification				
1	Construction of Dry wall partitions and other works for various departments at Phase-1buildings, New campus, Sangolli Rayanna Constituent College and Main Campus Bhutaramanahatti of Rani Channamma University, Hirebagewadi, Belagavi (RCUB/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT16)	Rs. 200 Lakhs	Rs. 3,00,000.00	11.06.2026

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ವಿಜಯಪುರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ
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ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಕುರಿತು

ವಿಜಯಪುರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ತನ್ನ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ 50 ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1987 ಮತ್ತು ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 1991 ರ ರಿತ್ಯಾ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರತಿ ಚ.ಅಡಿಗೆ ರೂ: 450/–ರಂತೆ ದರ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಎಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಸಂಘ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ರೂ:7,000/– ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಫೀ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಸಂಘ/ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗನುಸಾರವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಂಘ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ನಂತರವೇ ನಿಗಧಿತ ನಮೂನೆ–I & 2 ನ್ನು ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ವಿಜಯಪುರ, ಬ.ಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:01–06–2026 ರಿಂದ ಬೆಲೆ ರೂ: 200/–ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ನಮೂನೆ I ಹಾಗೂ 2 ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿತ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30–06–2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5–30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ತಲುಪುವಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕ ರಜೆ ದಿನವೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನವನ್ನು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನವೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ನಿಗಧಿತ ಸಮಯದ ನಂತರ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾದ ಅಥವಾ ದೋಷಪೂರಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ನೀಡದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕ, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವರಗಳ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ website www.vijayapur.uda.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ
ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/121/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಎ/2026–27

First SAS flight to India in 17 yrs sent back after flying 4 hrs over regulatory delay

Manju.V@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: After a gap of 17 years, Scandinavian carrier SAS recommenced flights to India with an early morning landing planned in Mumbai on Wednesday, but the inaugural flight had to turn back midway over regulatory issues.

On Tuesday, flight SK969 departed Copenhagen for Mumbai around 8.30pm, about four hours behind schedule, according to Flightradar24, a flight-tracking site. About four hours into the flight, the A330 aircraft was in Azerbaijan skies when it turned back to Copenhagen.

"The Copenhagen-Mumbai flight returned to Copenhagen after the final approval expected from the authorities was not issued as anticipated," said the airline in a statement.

"SAS completed all necessary operational and regulatory preparations for the launch following several months of planning and coordination. Based on ongoing discussions with the relevant authorities, SAS had every expectation that the remaining formal approval would be finalised while the flight was en route. As the approval was not finalised as anticipated, the flight could not continue as planned," it added.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation did not respond to a query sent by TOI.

'OK WAS EXPECTED'

➤ The **Copenhagen-Mumbai flight was over Azerbaijan when it turned back**

> The flight **returned to Copenhagen after the final approval expected from the authorities was not issued. SAS completed all necessary** operational and regulatory **preparations for the launch... (&) had every expectation the formal approval would be finalised** while the flight was en route **—SAS statement**

HC declares DMK neta winner in '16 polls, flags delay caused by SC

Judicial Delays Undermining Democracy: HC

Sureshkumar.K
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DMK candidate Appavu lost to Inbadurai by a narrow margin after several postal ballots were rejected. He challenged result, contending that ballots attested had been wrongly invalidated

Chennai: Madras high court flagged Wednesday a decade-long delay by Supreme Court in an election case, while declaring DMK functionary and former Tamil Nadu assembly speaker M Appavu rightful winner of 2016 assembly polls from Radhapuram, saying prolonged judicial delays were undermining democracy and spirit of adult franchise.

Ruling came with unusually sharp remarks on delays in adjudicating election disputes. "If the delay caused by the courts are going to undermine the spirit of the adult franchise and democracy, I fear that this country may also go in the way of the other country that gained Independence along with us," Justice G Jayachandran said, in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

Remarks assume significance because Supreme Court recently directed high courts across the country to pronounce judgments within three months of reserving them. Top court also said delays in delivering judgments can cause irreparable harm to litigants.

Allowing Appavu's election petition nearly a decade after disputed polls, Justice Jayachandran directed Tamil Nadu assembly secretary to replace AIADMK's IS Inbadurai with Appavu in all official records as MLA for Radhapuram in Tirunelveli district for 2016-2021 term.

DMK candidate Appavu lost to Inbadurai by a narrow margin after several postal ballots were rejected. He challenged result, contending that ballots attested by govt middle school headmasters had been wrongly invalidated on the ground that attesting officials were not gazetted officers.

In 2019, HC held that govt middle school headmasters are gazetted officers and that rejected postal ballots were valid. It ordered a recount. Before recount result could be declared, Supreme Court stayed further proceedings.

Referring to that intervention, Justice Jayachandran said top court had ultimately left the legal question unanswered despite keeping matter pending for years.

"The Supreme Court, even 10 years after keeping the matter pending, thought fit that the question has to be kept open due to lapse of time and the term of office having expired and no useful purpose will be served on adjudicating upon the issue on the appeal. With great respect, the Apex Court could have answered this question since this court as a trial court has already given a finding in respect of the issue," he said.

The judge said HC could not abdicate its constitutional responsibility merely because term of office had ended. "This court has a constitutional duty and has taken oath to protect and preserve the Constitution at any cost. This court is not inclined to abrogate its responsibility for whatever reason," he said, adding the finding that middle school headmasters are gazetted officers had never been overturned by Supreme Court.

On that basis, HC allowed Appavu's petition and held that Inbadurai had been wrongly declared elected in 2016. HC said the erroneous declaration was not attributable to any wrongdoing by Inbadurai and clarified that ruling would not disqualify him or otherwise affect his public career. It said he would only lose any claim to pensionary benefits arising from assembly membership during 2016-2021 term.

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Due Date Extension for Tender Notice		
Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
4119-S	SE/P&A/TTPS	DCS for unit III of TTPS

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

DIPR/1993/Tender/2026

TELANGANA HOUSING CORPORATION Ltd
H.No.3-8-184, Street No.17 Urdugally, Himayatnagar, Hyd-29
Tender Notice No. 960103/TGHCL/IndirammaIndlu/Shearwall/2026
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (EoI) calling from Manufacturers of Aluminium Shuttering (Mivan type) for Design, fabrication, Supply, demonstration, training, after-sales service and technical support of Aluminium Formwork systems (Mivan/Shearwall Formwork) of around 100 sets Scalable to 1000 sets on demand for construction of independent houses under the Indiramma Indlu Housing scheme. Dates to bid 04-06-2026 to 12-06-2026. Details can be seen at eprocurement market place in **https://eprocurement.telangana.gov.in**.

Sd/-CHIEF ENGINEER, TGHCL.

DIPR R.O.No.194-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt:03-06-2026

Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation Limited.
(Under the control of Infrastructure & Investment Dept., GoAP)
Mangalagiri, Amaravati.
Development of Integrated Aviation Ecosystem at Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy Airport, Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh on PPP Basis- Regarding
RFP.NoticeNo.03/KURNOOL AIRPORT/APADCL/2026-27 Dt:03.06.2026

Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation Ltd. (APADCL) invites Proposals from reputed Global firms for the captioned assignment. Interested consultancy firms may download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document from the website of APADCL @ **www.apadcl.com** on 04.06.2026 @ 04.00 PM onwards. The last date for submission of the proposals is on or before 03:00 PM hours IST on 03.07.2026. {in AP e-procurement portal only}

Sd/- Managing Director, APADCL

DIPR No.5137/PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt:03/06/2026

For any clarifications, please send e-mail to: md-apadcl@ap.gov.in, cgmtechapadcl@gmail.com.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER IRRIGATION CIRCLE CAD CHAMBAL KOTA
Tel. Office. 0744-2500149, Email:-seirrgcad@rajasthan.gov.in
No.- F- 808 Date.- 25/05/2026
E- TENDER NOTICE NO. 02/2026-27

Bids for the following works are invited from "B" or Upper Class category or equivalent contactors/firms registered in CAD/Water Resources Department and State Government/Other State Government/ Authorized organizations of Central Government/ CPWD/Post and telegraph department/Railway etc. interested bidders up to 06:00 PM dated 17.06.2026 :-

S.No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs. in Lacs)
1	Construction of Molki VRB at Km. 75.45 of RMC CAD Anta.	363.60

Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal http/www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & http://www.sppp/raj.nic.in

NIBCODE:- WRD2627A0070
UBNNo.:- WRD2627WSOB00166
DIPR/C/9385/2026

Superintending Engineer
Irrigation Circle
CAD Chambal Kota

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 380/SS(D)-400/Spares | **Dated : 02.06.2026**

Dy. CE/ Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply and Delivery of 97 Nos. Battery Charger of various ratings. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 05.06.2026 (11:00 AM onwards).

Note : Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C617/26, DPR/Pb. : 1079/12/2026-27/11938

E-Auction for SLRs of Train over Ranchi Division

Notification No.: C/RNC/E-Auction/2026 **Dated: 02.06.2026**

For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, South Eastern Railway, Ranchi has invited e-auction over Ranchi Division. The catalogue has already been published on IREPS website. The details are as under: **Category:** Parcel. **Catalogue No.:** RNCPARCEL11. **Assets Details:** e-Auction for 41 Nos. of assets for leasing of SLR Compartment by 32 number of Passenger/Mail/Express Train originating from Ranchi Division. **Auction start:** 15.06.2026 at 10:00 hrs. **Auction closed date:** 15.06.2026 at 17:10 hrs. **Note:** Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-auction leasing module on IREPS website **(www.ireps.gov.in)**. The Lot wise details are available there under the above mentioned catalogue.

(PR-267) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Ranchi

South Eastern Railway
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(10E): 2026-27:JE-3 Dated: 03.06.2026

SHORTERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division, Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 36101 **under the Head of Account 4059-80-051-0-32-386 Construction of Court Building.** The Last date for reciept of tender: **11.06.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**

In the above work cost of estimate is Rs.100.00 Lakhs Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document – KW-3. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/309/26-27 dt.03.06.2026

TTD ghee row: ED raids 15 sites in several cities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: ED on Wednesday carried out searches at 15 locations across Ahilyanagar, Bikaner, Dehradun, Delhi, Dindigul, Guntur, Mumbai and Roorkee in connection with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) ghee adulteration fraud case.

The ED in its investigation has found that adulterated ghee was supplied to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam and the proceeds of crime generated through the supply of adulterated ghee were subsequently invested in immovable properties through a complex web of interconnected legal entities and business concerns to conceal the illicit origin of funds.

"Various incriminating documents were seized, indicating the use of a complex network of legal entities to facilitate bogus sale and purchase transactions for concealment and layering of proceeds of crime," ED said.

Residents form human chains, push cars blocking emergency vehicles

▶Continued from page 1

A majority of the victims succumbed to smoke inhalation while many had severe burn injuries, and acute respiratory damage. Autopsy reports are awaited.

It was around 8.48 am that Delhi Fire Services and local police received frantic distress calls. Authorities dispatched eight fire tenders to manage water distribution, two high-capacity water bowsers to maintain pressure, and specialized Quick Response Vehicles equipped with cutting tools and ventilation fans. First responders arrived around 8.55 am but met a logistical nightmare. The terrace was locked and the ground floor was on fire. The narrow, winding lanes and haphazard parking impeded movement of the heavy emergency vehicles.

Facing this gridlock, the locals mobilised. As traffic ground to a halt, residents formed human chains and pushed cars that were blocking the way to make space for fire tenders. They then directed traffic and guided CATS ambulances directly to the disaster site. Only one fire tender could reach the spot at a time. Between 9 and 11.30am, a massive, coordinated rescue operation was fully underway. A video shot by a passerby and uploaded on social media showed a foreign national standing on the roof of the burning building, looking for a way to escape. Among those who were injured were 10 cops and two firemen.

Two of the trapped guests make a desperate attempt to escape

By noon, multiple firefighting units extinguished the blaze, transitioning into extensive cooling operations and a grim search through the charred debris for any remaining victims. As the smoke cleared, glaring violations became apparent. Firefighters found multiple cylinders stashed in the basement. Forensic and technical teams are analysing evidence from the site. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the kin of each victim. He also said Rs. 50,000 would be provided to those who sustained injuries in the incident.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta said that a magisterial inquiry has been ordered and a city-wide crackdown will be launched against illegal properties, unauthorised guest houses and establishments operating in violation of fire safety norms and building by-laws.

Guilt-driven confession solves murder mystery

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kozhikode: A guilt-driven confession that stunned police in Kerala has helped solve a four-decade-old death mystery, leading investigators to identify a young man whose body was buried as unidentified after being found in a stream in 1986.

Police in Thiruvambady, a hilly area in Kozhikode district of northern Kerala, said victim Mohanan, 22, from Velimanam near Iritty in Kannur district, was identified a year after 56-year-old Muhammadali alias Antony walked into a police station and confessed to allegedly causing his death.

On June 4, 2025, Muhammadali, a resident of Cherur near Kannamangalam in Malappuram district, entered Vengara police station and told officers he had killed a man in Nov 1986 while he was a teenager. According to police, Muhammadali said years of guilt had become unbearable following the recent death of his eldest son and a serious accident involving his second child. He told investigators he had struggled for decades with sleeplessness and remorse.

Muhammadali allegedly said he was working as a farmhand on a property owned by a man named Devasiya in Koodaranhi, a rural area in Kozhikode district, when a confrontation broke out. He claimed he kicked in self-defence a man who allegedly tried to assault him. The man fell into a nearby stream and Muhammadali fled.

1986 KERALA CASE

Following the confession, police charged him with murder under section 302 of IPC and remanded him in judicial custody. He is now out on bail. Police said a chargesheet will be filed soon.

After reopening the case, investigators took Muhammadali to Karinkutty, near Koodaranhi, where he pointed out the stream. Police prepared a sketch of the deceased using details provided by him and began inquiries across northern Kerala. The breakthrough came when relatives of Mohanan contacted investigators, saying the sketch resembled a family member who had disappeared in the mid-1980s.

"After Mohammedali's confession, relatives contacted us saying that the victim could be Mohanan. They said Mohanan had left home in search of work and the family had received his letter from Koodaranhi. A year after his disappearance, someone who worked with him had informed that Mohanan had died," Thiruvambady inspector Prashanth K said. The family later travelled to Kozhikode, examined photographs taken during the original inquest and identified the body as Mohanan, police said.

Prashanth said investigators had found no signs of foul play at the time and treated the death as a drowning. Mohanan's family also had no reason to suspect otherwise because he suffered from epilepsy, he said.

The unidentified body was buried in a public cemetery in Kozhikode city, about 90km south of Kannur, after no claimant came forward.

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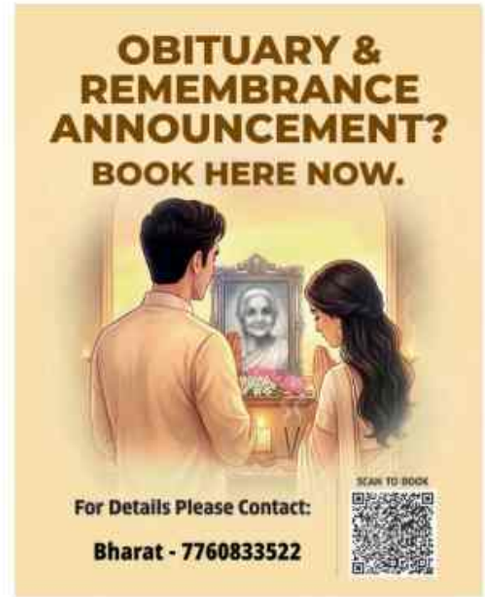

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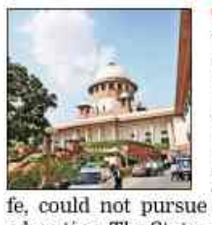
Overqualification can lead to disqualification from job: SC

'Rationale Both Reasonable And Equitable'

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com



There is nothing wrong in govt decision putting a cap on the qualification for a post and disqualifying persons holding higher degrees, the SC said

New Delhi: Sometimes overqualification becomes a disqualification. At a time when highly qualified people, including PhD holders, are applying and competing for class IV govt jobs, Supreme Court has said that a person could be disqualified for a job if he holds a qualification beyond the maximum qualification prescribed for the job.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R Mahadevan noted that an employer's need to have the right people at the right place does not always mean the higher qualified. "The rationale behind prescribing an upper limit of qualification is both reasonable and equitable, namely, to provide employment opportunities to persons who, owing to circumstances of life, could not pursue higher education. The State, as a model employer, is justified in reserving certain categories of posts for such persons so that they are not compelled to compete with more highly qualified candidates against whom they would ordinarily stand little chance of selection. Such a policy has consistently been upheld by the Courts. Thus, when the post was specifically intended for candidates possessing lower educational qualifications, permitting a person with higher qualifications to secure such employment would necessarily result in depriving a genuinely eligible and deserving candidate of the opportunity," it said.

The court passed the order while upholding termination of job of a bank employee on the ground that he was graduate at the time of joining while the job specification specifically stipulated that the candidate should possess the qualification of passing 8th standard, but should not have passed the 12th standard or acquired any higher qualification. "Having considered the matter in its entirety, though we may have sympathy for the respondent, the conduct attributed to him and the settled position of law leave us with no option but to interfere with the impugned judgment. Public employment must be made available to all eligible candidates in accordance with the prescribed qualifications," the bench said.

It relied upon the SC judgement passed two months back which said, "Lack of public employment opportunities in sufficient numbers may force even a Master degree holder to apply for the job of a peon but, if he is appointed upon his application being favourably considered, what happens to the aspirants who have not had the means of pursuing study beyond the 12th standard? Do they remain unemployed forever, if all or majority of the posts of peon are filled upon by such degree holders? What happens if the Master degree holder leaves the post of Peon and secured higher job commensurate with his qualifications after a couple of years? Does it not burden the public exchequer by requiring the employer to initiate a fresh selection?".

"Even if it is assumed that there was no deliberate attempt on the part of the respondent to mislead the authorities at the initial stage, the fact remains that as per the requisition issued by the appellants, only candidates not possessing qualifications higher than the prescribed limit were eligible for consideration," the SC said.

Govt sets aside ₹10k cr to cap jet fuel price, keep air fares in check

New Delhi: In a bid to ensure airfares don't get completely out of reach for the common citizen and airlines don't collapse, govt on Wednesday decided to set aside Rs 10,000 crore to cap aviation turbine fuel (ATF) or jet fuel prices and prevent them from sharp surges. This one-time budgetary support will be given as interest-free advance to oil marketing companies (OMC) to compensate them for not passing on the hike to Indian carriers whenever the jet fuel price spikes.

And when international ATF prices moderate, the differential amount will be recovered from the companies and returned to the consolidated fund of India. "ATF price stabilisation support will be in force for a period of 36 months... may be extended beyond 36 months... in case the corpus is not fully trued up within this period," a govt statement said.

This crucial support was cleared at a meeting of the Union cabinet on Wednesday to provide ATF price stabilisation support to scheduled Indian airlines for their domestic and international operations "during the ongoing period of exceptional fuel price volatility arising from the West Asia crisis."

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** said on X: "Cabinet approval for a one-time support mechanism to ensure greater stability in ATF prices for Indian airlines will help maintain affordable air connectivity, support airline operations and reduce the burden on passengers. It will also strengthen connectivity to Tier-II and Tier-III cities, support tourism and employment."

I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Centre has capped the aviation turbine fuel price for domestic airlines at Rs 75.6 per litre, significantly below the current market price after it had soared 2.5 times. The I&B minister said the scheme would help stabilise airline operating costs, reduce fare volatility for passengers and preserve domestic and international air connectivity. TNN

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Gor: Trade deal nearly done, 1% issues remain

Mumbai: Suggesting that India-United States trade deal was 99% complete, US ambassador **Sergio Gor** said on Wednesday both sides were trying to resolve the remaining "1%" sticking points and expected the long-awaited pact to be inked within the next several weeks.

The US ambassador to India, who also serves as special envoy to South and Central Asia, said America has lower tariffs for India than any of its neighbours and insisted Washington values its relationship with New Delhi.

Speaking at Citi's 2026 India Conference in Mumbai, the ambassador noted that when US President Donald Trump was not in office from Jan 2021 to Jan 2025 after his first term, PM Narendra Modi still stayed in touch with him during those four years, highlighting their deep personal bond.

"Your Prime Minister normally never criticises the President. He (PM Modi) has stayed in touch during those four years when Trump was out (of office). And that's something that the President remembers," Gor told the gathering.

Further highlighting the friendship between the leaders, he said, "It is easy to see today (that) some leaders from Europe that show up to the Oval Office ... everyone of them wants to be President's best friend. But it matters when you are down, who your true friend is. That's what he appreciates about PM Modi."

He said a US team is currently in India to negotiate the bilateral trade pact. The US team is led by its chief negotiator Brendan Lynch, while India's chief negotiator is Darpan Jain, an additional secretary in the Department of Commerce. TNN

Siblings among five kids drown in rainwater pit

Patna/Madhubani: Five children drowned in a rainwater-filled pit, while another was injured, near Kerwar village in Bihar's Madhubani district Wednesday. Police said the victims were aged between nine and 12 years, and included a brother-sister duo, both 10 years old.

Locals said the kids had gone bathing in a deep pit dug for soil excavation using an earthmover machine. Unable to gauge the depth, they began drowning one after another. Villagers rushed to the spot on hearing their cries for help, and pulled all six children out of the pit.

The kids were taken to a hospital, where doctors declared five of them dead. The family of one of the victims alleged that the pit, excavated under a private contract awarded by one Leela Jha 3 years ago, had been accumulating water ever since. TNN

'Pressure from seniors drove engr to suicide'

Sanjeev.Verma
@timesofindia.com

HPPCL CASE

Shimla: The Central Bureau of Investigation probe into the last year's death of a chief engineer at Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL) has uncovered a "criminal conspiracy" involving his superiors to facilitate irregular clearances for the Rs 220-crore Pekhubela solar power project in Una district.

Vimal Negi had gone missing from Shimla on March 10 last year and his body was recovered on March 18 from Satluj river in Bilaspur district. A medical board had confirmed the cause of death as "asphyxia due to ante-mortem drowning," occurring between March 10 and 11, 2025.

The chargesheet, submitted to the special CBI court in Shimla on March 31, mentions that managing director Harikesh Meena (IAS) and director (electrical) Desh Raj subjected Negi to "continuous harassment and illegal professional pressure," creating a hostile environment that drove him to suicide.

CBI also indicted ASI Pankaj Sharma, saying he misappropriated a pen drive recovered from Negi's body and destroyed digital evidence to obstruct justice.

While Sharma was arrested in Sept 2025 and later granted bail, Meena and Raj secured anticipatory bail from the high court and Supreme Court, respectively.

The investigative agency, in its chargesheet, has urged the court that Meena, Raj and Sharma should be summoned, tried and punished as per the law.

Woman kills 'abusive' hubby, surrenders

Bhopal: Driven to the brink by years of domestic abuse, a 27-year-old woman beat her husband to death Monday in MP's Chhatarpur, sat beside his body for eight hours, then sought divine forgiveness at a local temple before surrendering to police.

The incident occurred around 10am in Shiv Nagar Colony when the victim, Deendayal Kushwaha (30), a heavily intoxicated mason, broke the door's latch to forcibly enter the house of his estranged wife, Neelam Kushwaha. Deendayal reportedly grabbed Neelam by her hair, assaulted her, and hurled derogatory slurs against their seven-year-old daughter. According to family members, Neelam retaliated with a wooden stick, repeatedly striking Deendayal even after he collapsed. He succumbed to head and leg injuries on the spot. TNN

Land for ₹304-cr Kashi station revamp cleared, mosque razed

Varanasi: A joint team of the Railways, district administration and police launched a mega drive Tuesday night to clear railway land for the Rs 304.61-crore Kashi Railway Station remodelling project aimed at improving connectivity through road and water transport, **reports Rajeev Dikshit.**

During the drive, Azgaib Shahid mosque and other encroachments were removed, and the debris was cleared overnight. While no one from the mosque management was willing to speak on the issue, local Muslims claimed the mosque being several hundred years old. Officials said the land was part of railway property and had been encroached upon over the years. They said a Hanuman temple had also existed at the location.

Divisional commissioner S Rajalingam said Wednesday that notices had been issued to remove illegal encroachments and constructions on railway land. "Some litigants had approached the court but got no relief, following which the removal drive was carried out as per the notices," he said.

Narayana Health

ADVERTORIAL

Pulsed Field Ablation:

A New Era in Treating Atrial Fibrillation

Understanding Pulsed Field Ablation and What It Means for Patients

Atrial Fibrillation (AF) is the most common heart rhythm disorder, causing the heart to beat irregularly and often rapidly. It may lead to symptoms such as palpitations, fatigue, breathlessness, or reduced stamina, although some people may have no symptoms at all. If left untreated, AF can increase the risk of stroke, heart failure, and recurrent hospitalisations. Treatment options have advanced significantly over the years, with catheter ablation emerging as an effective therapy for many patients. One of the latest innovations in this field is Pulsed Field Ablation (PFA).

What is Pulsed Field Ablation?

Pulsed Field Ablation (PFA) is an advanced treatment for atrial fibrillation that uses brief electrical pulses to target the heart tissue responsible for abnormal rhythms. Unlike conventional ablation techniques that rely on heat or freezing, PFA works through a process called electroporation, allowing it to selectively affect abnormal cardiac cells while minimizing impact on nearby structures.

The procedure primarily focuses on the pulmonary veins, a common source of abnormal electrical signals that trigger AF. By isolating these signals, PFA helps restore and maintain a normal heart rhythm.

Commenting on the technology, **Dr. Deepak Padmanabhan,** Senior Consultant & Strategic Lead, Cardiac Electrophysiology Programme, said, "Pulsed Field Ablation marks a significant advancement in cardiac electrophysiology. Its ability to precisely target abnormal heart tissue while potentially reducing collateral injury has attracted global attention. As clinical experience grows, PFA is expected to become an increasingly important option in the treatment of atrial fibrillation."

Who May Benefit from PFA?

While not every patient with atrial fibrillation requires ablation, those who continue to experience symptoms such as palpitations, breathlessness, fatigue, or recurrent hospitalisations despite medication may benefit from evaluation by a cardiac electrophysiologist.

The decision to proceed with ablation depends on factors such as the type of AF, overall health, associated medical conditions, stroke risk, and patient preferences.

Why Has PFA Generated Global Interest?

Pulsed Field Ablation has gained worldwide attention because of its ability to selectively target abnormal heart tissue while potentially minimising damage to nearby structures. Early clinical studies and real-world experience have shown encouraging safety and effectiveness outcomes, with some centres also reporting shorter procedure times and faster recovery in selected patients.

While these findings are promising, PFA remains a medical procedure with potential risks and may not be suitable for every patient. As its use expands globally, long-term clinical data continue to be collected to better understand its benefits and outcomes.

Commenting on its potential, **Dr. Kapil Kumawat,** Senior Consultant & Clinical Lead – Cardiac Electrophysiology Programme, said, "For many patients living with atrial fibrillation, symptoms such as palpitations, fatigue, and breathlessness can significantly impact daily life despite medication. Pulsed Field Ablation offers a promising minimally invasive treatment option for carefully selected patients, with encouraging procedural efficiency and recovery outcomes being reported worldwide. Early diagnosis and timely evaluation by a heart rhythm specialist remain essential for achieving the best outcomes."

AF Care Goes Beyond the Procedure

Managing atrial fibrillation requires a comprehensive approach that includes stroke prevention, control of blood pressure and diabetes, weight management, regular exercise, treatment of sleep apnoea, and ongoing medical follow-up. Even after successful ablation, some patients may still require medications, including blood thinners, based on their individual risk profile.

Commenting on the importance of comprehensive AF care, **Dr. Debabrata Bera,** Senior Consultant, Cardiac Electrophysiology and Clinical Lead - East for Cardiac EP Programme, said, "Atrial fibrillation is closely linked to conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and stroke risk. Effective management goes beyond treating the rhythm disorder and requires lifestyle changes, risk factor control, and regular follow-up. Early recognition of symptoms like irregular heartbeat, fatigue, and breathlessness is key to timely diagnosis and treatment."

What Happens During the Procedure?

Pulsed Field Ablation is a minimally invasive procedure performed using thin catheters guided into the heart through blood vessels, usually from the leg. Most patients require only a short hospital stay and can return to normal activities soon after recovery.

A Step Forward in Heart Rhythm Care

PFA is an important advancement in the treatment of atrial fibrillation, offering a promising option for selected patients. Early diagnosis remains crucial, and symptoms such as palpitations, irregular heartbeat, fatigue, or breathlessness should never be ignored. With ongoing advances in heart rhythm care, technologies like PFA are helping improve outcomes for patients with atrial fibrillation.

Dr. Debabrata Bera
Senior Consultant - Cardiac Electrophysiology and Clinical Lead - East for Cardiac EP Programme

Dr. Deepak Padmanabhan
Senior Consultant & Strategic Lead, Cardiac Electrophysiology Programme

Dr. Kapil Kumawat
Senior Consultant & Clinical Lead – Cardiac Electrophysiology Programme

Disclaimer: *The content of these articles are for informational purposes only and not a substitute for professional medical advice. Please consult your doctor/ a registered medical practitioner before starting any treatment/ medicine. The publication house/ its representatives/ affiliates are not responsible/ liable whatsoever.*

Narayana Health City, Bengaluru | *Take Care*
www.narayanahealth.org
1800 309 0309

SPOTLIGHT

RISM and the University at Albany announce collaboration to redefine higher education

■ (From L to R) Fardin Sanai, vice president for University Advancement and executive director, University at Albany Foundation, Gurucharan, executive director and chief strategic officer, Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management, Carol H Kim, provost and senior vice president, Academic Affairs, University at Albany, Havidán Rodriguez, president, Executive Council, University at Albany, Dr M R Jayaram, chancellor, RISM, Thenkurussi (Kesh) Kesavadas, vice president for Research and Economic Development, Executive Council, University at Albany, Balakrishnan (Prabha) Prabhakaran, AI Plus Institute Director, Empire Innovation Professor, University at Albany

Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM), in collaboration with the University at Albany (State University of New York), held a high-level Curtain Raiser convening leaders from academia, industry, research and technology to outline a shared vision for reimagining higher education in India. Framed as a strategic forum, the event set out RISM's institutional roadmap to close systemic gaps between learning, capability and measurable societal impact through interdisciplinary education, AI-enabled pedagogy and translational research.

Professor Gurucharan, executive director and chief strategic officer, Gokula Education Foundation (Medical), called for a fundamental reorientation of universities' purpose: to prepare students for an AI-shaped world where human judgement, creativity and ethics remain central. He urged institutions to ensure AI amplifies learning, not replaces it, and to shift academic programmes toward interdisciplinary problem-solving and systems thinking that mirrors real-world complexity.

A fireside conversation between Dr M R Jayaram, chairman of Gokula Education Foundation (Medical) and chancellor of RISM, and Dr Havidán Rodríguez, president of the University at Albany, underscored the partnership's global ambition. Dr Jayaram described the new university's mission to bridge the industry–academia divide and transition from publication-centred output to deep science translational research that delivers products, processes and societal solutions. President Dr Rodríguez emphasised co-creation rather than replication: the collaboration seeks to build a new higher-education model that augments, not replaces, human capabilities with AI.

Three focused panels explored actionable pathways:

THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Moderated by professor Shivakumar Sastry, experts from academia and industry highlighted the need to move beyond siloed curricula to outcome-driven, systems-oriented learning. Recommendations included embedded industry capstones, long-term projects, faculty support for new pedagogy, and student agency in problem selection.

AI IN HIGHER EDUCATION — THE CREATIVE DISRUPTOR

Led by professor C Pandu Rangan, and panellists agreed that generative AI commoditises execution while increasing the value of critical thinking, ethics and process-oriented assessment. Institutions must redesign learning and assessment to cultivate human–AI teaming and higher-order skills.

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Moderated by Venkatesh Valluri, the discussion showcased case studies where industry collaboration and iterative, society-engaged research accelerated product development and impact. Panellists urged prioritising translation over patents and equipping students and faculty to innovate with market orientation.

In closing, professor B N Raghunandan, chairman of the RISM Task Force, synthesised five priorities: systems approaches, social skills, unified multidisciplinary engineering, continuous faculty development, and a focus on translational research. Dr Jayaram, chairman and chancellor, said, "RISM aims to be recognised as the university that prepared a generation not merely for jobs, but for shaping the future. That is our vision for 2035."

The views expressed herein are of the respective individual panellists and BCCL does not endorse and is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein.

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State. Tele: (08537) 275463, 276339
e-Mail: **material276339@gmail.com** Website: **www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in**

Tender Notification No. 05/26-27, Dt: 04.06.2026 (Through KPP Portal only)

Tender is invited by "The I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the following tenders as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Procurement of casuarina poles. **HGML/2025-26/IND0450/CALL-2**	46,000/-
2	Supply of Sag Mill Discharge End Pulp Lifters. **HGML/2025-26/IND0438/CALL-2**	1,51,000/-
3	Procurement of Bar Hoist. **HGML/2025-26/IND0454/CALL-2**	27,500/-
4	Procurement of Cavity Monitoring Instrument. **HGML/2025-26/IND0472/CALL-2**	1,46,000/-
5	Supply of Air Cooled Compressor of capacity 1500 CFM. **HGML/2026-27/IND0505**	1,70,000/-
6	Supply of spare items for existing Allen Bradley make DCS. **HGML/2025-26/IND0444/CALL-2**	82,500/-
7	Supply of Open Gear Lubricant for 2 x 50 TPH Ball Mill Plant. **HGML/2026-27/IND0488**	46,000/-
8	Renovation of CGU Guest House. **HGML/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT127/CALL-3**	29,000/-
9	Providing 06 Cooks for preparation of food for HGML Main Canteen. **HGML/2025-26/SE0086/CALL-2**	26,000/-
10	Providing Manpower (10 persons) for Unloading & Loading Works at HGML. **HGML/2026-27/SE0095**	48,000/-

Calendar of events: 1) Last date for receipt of tender: **20.06.2026 at 4.00 PM. 2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **22.06.2026 at 10.00 AM.**

For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to the website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of the undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidders needs to be registered in KPP portal.

Sd/- I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

COMMISSIONER OF GEOLOGY AND MINING, INDUSTRIES & MINES DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT
Email: geo-auction-cgm@gujarat.gov.in

CGM/Major/Block/2026-27/XV Date: 04 June, 2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

"Invitation of bids for grant of Composite Licence for Limestone Mineral and for grant of Mining Lease for Bauxite, Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite), Limestone and Marl Mineral"

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10 (B) and Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 notified thereunder, the Government of Gujarat has identified 22 (Twenty Two) mineral blocks containing Bauxite, Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite), Limestone and Marl mineral for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Mining Lease and Composite Licence.

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from Eligible bidders.

Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited (https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcln/index.jsp).

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the above website.

Commencement of sale of Tender Document on website of e-auction platform provider is **Thursday, 08 June, 2026,** last date for purchase of Tender Document is **Monday,17 July, 2026** [on or before 17:00 hours (IST)] and the last date for submission of the bids is **Monday, 27 July, 2026** [on or before 17:00 hours (IST)]. The Price of Tender Document per mineral block is ₹ 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh only) excluding GST and bidders are required to pay applicable GST under Reverse Charge Mechanism.

It is hereby clarified that One (1) block i.e. Shantipura Block is an expired mine and remaining Twenty-One (21) blocks are virgin Blocks

The list of mineral blocks is as under:

S. No	Name of Mineral Block	Location (Village, Taluka, District)	Mineral	Mineral Resource (Grade wise) in Tonnes	Area (Ha)	ML/CL
1.	Chetarsumba Bauxite & Aluminous Laterite Block-D	Chetarsumba, Thasra, Kheda	• Bauxite, Aluminous Laterite & Limestone	• Aluminous Laterite: 220917.34 • Bauxite: 53240.55 • Cement Grade Limestone: 65223.98	5.0688	ML
2.	Daban Block - 1	Daban, Abdasa, Kachchh	• Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite), Bauxite & Bentonite	• Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite): 379944 • Bauxite (Low Grade): 73882 • Bentonite: 860328	5.0197	ML
3.	Darsali Block	Darsali, Deorana, Chingariya, Char, Nagichana, Mangrol, Junagadh	• Limestone	• Limestone (Chemical grade): 13400000 • Limestone (BF Grade): 12700000	500.00	CL
4.	Kadaya Block	Kadaya, Malia-Hatina, Junagadh	• Limestone	• Limestone: 567337	6.8797	CL
5.	Karmadi Sub-Block-1	Karmadi, Mangrol, Junagadh	• Limestone	• Chemical Grade Limestone: 3400000 • BF Grade Limestone: 3090000	185.63	CL
6.	Karmadi-Deorana Sub- Block-2	Karmadi Deorana, Mangrol, Junagadh	• Limestone	• Chemical Grade Limestone: 2170000 • BF Grade Limestone: 1970000	118.63	CL
7.	Karmadi-Deorana Sub- Block-3	Karmadi Deorana, Mangrol, Junagadh	• Limestone	• Chemical Grade Limestone: 2050000 • BF Grade Limestone: 1860000	111.60	CL
8.	Karmadi-Deorana Sub- Block-4	Karmadi Deorana, Mangrol, Junagadh	• Limestone	• Chemical Grade Limestone: 2330000 • BF Grade Limestone: 2110000	127.11	CL
9.	Kenedy Block - 6	Kenedy, Kalyanpur, Devbhumi Dwarka	• Bauxite, Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) & Laterite	• Bauxite (Low grade): 30927 • Bauxite (Metallurgical grade): 55255 • Bauxite (Abrasive grade): 290609 • Bauxite (Rafractory grade): 28745 • Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite): 191781 • Laterite: 385810	5.2313	ML
10.	Khorasa & Januda Block- 1	Khorasa & Januda, Maliya, Junagadh	• Limestone and Marl	• Limestone: 518749 • Marl: 10222	5.0400	ML
11.	Mevasa Block-E	Mevasa, Kalyanpur, Devbhumi Dwarka	• Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite	• Bauxite (Cement grade): 167961.02 • Bauxite (Metallurgical grade): 31583.96 • Bauxite (Abrasive grade): 290621.24 • Aluminous Laterite: 592087.92	6.7933	ML
12.	Nandana Block-C	Nandana, Kalyanpur, Devbhumi Dwarka	• Bauxite, Aluminous Laterite	• Bauxite (Low grade): 261646.55 • Bauxite (Metallurgical grade): 223206.76 • Bauxite (Abrasive grade): 346060.82 • Aluminous Laterite: 332072.51	5.6278	ML
13.	Paradva Block	Paradva, Jam-Jodhpur, Jamnagar	• Limestone	• Limestone: 37750000	151.6262	CL
14.	Patan Block - 1	Patan, Jam-Jodhpur, Jamnagar	• Limestone and Marl	• Limestone: 353743 • Marl: 110433	4.9000	ML
15.	Pransli Block - 1	Pransli, Sutrapada, Gir Somnath	• Limestone	• Limestone: 1376772	4.0468	ML
16.	Satapar Bauxite Block-B	Satapar, Kalyanpur, Devbhumi Dwarka	• Bauxite	• Bauxite (Low grade): 121936.19 • Bauxite (Metallurgical grade): 121936.19 • Bauxite (Abrasive grade): 522727.71	4.4922	ML
17.	Satapar Bauxite Block-G	Satapar, Kalyanpur, Devbhumi Dwarka	• Bauxite	• Bauxite (Metallurgical grade): 280700.31 • Bauxite (Abrasive grade): 298899.65 • Bauxite (Rafractory grade): 174141.71	6.0391	ML
18.	Satapar Bauxite Block-H	Satapar, Kalyanpur, Devbhumi Dwarka	• Bauxite	• Bauxite (Cement grade): 55716.52 • Bauxite (Metallurgical grade): 226581.98 • Bauxite (Abrasive grade): 252232.10 • Bauxite (Rafractory grade): 196515.58 • Bauxite (Chemical grade): 29528.71	7.2525	ML
19.	Satapar Block - K	Satapar, Kalyanpur, Devbhumi Dwarka	• Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite	• Cement grade Bauxite: 262195.90 • Metallurgical grade Bauxite: 125198.14 • Abrasive grade Bauxite: 102537.18 • Aluminous Laterite: 315456.40	7.2386	ML
20.	Satapar Block - 5	Satapar, Kalyanpur, Devbhumi Dwarka	• Bauxite, Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite)	• Bauxite (Low grade): 173319 • Bauxite (Metallurgical grade): 42486 • Bauxite (Abrasive grade): 131760 Bauxite (Rafractory grade): 38666 • Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite): 284501	4.0418	ML
21.	Shantipura Block	Shantipura, Malia-Hatina, Junagadh	• Limestone and Marl	• Cement Grade Limestone 870364.468 • Limestone 668259.128 • Marl: 339059.251	19.9600	ML
22.	Virpur Lusri Block-9	Virpur Lusri, Kalyanpur, Devbhumi Dwarka	• Bauxite, Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite), • Laterite, Limestone & Marl	• Bauxite (Low grade): 213439 • Bauxite (Metallurgical grade): 126830 Bauxite (Abrasive grade): 84866 • Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite): 157582 Limestone: 43529 • Marl: 25823 • Laterite: 613229	7.2485	ML

INF/484/2026-27

Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Government of Gujarat

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)II, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tender will be closed **at 12.00 hrs.** on due date. **e-Tender Notice No.: 4642-GRC-CE-C-II-25-2026, Date: 02.06.2026. Brief Description of work:** Composite work for Creation of Advance maintenance facilities of Electric Loco for catering Zonal as well as foreign Railways locomotives at ELS/Tatanagar, Creation of Trip Shed for Trip inspection & maintenance activity of Electric locomotives at ELS/Tatanagar and Creation of Advance maintenance facilities for Electric locos at CTRC/Tatanagar under jurisdiction of Dy. Chief Engineer (Con), Tatanagar. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 66.03 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,32,06,600. **Completion Period:** 24 months. **Closing Date:** 30.06.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this item will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-266)**

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS

State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : (080) 22213009, Fax: 080 22215602

DYES/AP/ES/111/2025-26 **Date: 03.06.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject:- The Assistasnt Executive Engineer, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre ,Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender for the work Construction of Town Stadium at Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District

Particulars : Construction of Town Stadium at Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District. Amount put to Tender : **Rs 790.69 Lakhs,** EMD : **Rs 11,86,046/- a)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid : **18.06.2026 Time16:00 Hrs b)** Last Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **19.06.2026 Time 16.30 Hrs.**

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Assistant Executive Engineer
Department of Youth Empowerment and sports
[TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY]

DIPR/CP/962/Zen/2026-27

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No.19/2026-27/CE, GVMC/SE (W-East)/EE-East/DB/GVMC, Dt:01-06-2026

No. of Works : 2 Nos; Value of Works (ECV) : Rs.495.46 Lakhs
Downloading Starting Date : 02.06.2026 @ 11.00 P.M.,
Downloading End Date : 17.06.2026 @ 02.00 P.M.,
Last Date for Submission of bid : 17.06.2026 @ 03.00 P.M.,
Further details at http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o the Executive Engineer (PW-III) Division. For Commissioner, GVMC

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED-TENDER NOTICE

O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer,Electrical circle, Nilambur, Malappuram.
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_853880_1 PAC:Rs.Rs.4,98,87,128/-
Last Date:19.06.2026, 04.00 pm
O/o the Chief Engineer, (S.C.M) & C.S.C, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_852669_1 PAC:Rs. Rs.2,27,23,500/-
Last Date: 19.06.2026, 04.30 pm
O/o the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Poringalkuthu,Thrissur.
E-Tender ID No.2026_KSEB_853291_1 PAC:Rs. Rs.2,07,23,124/-
Last Date: 07.07.2026, 05.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref: :PR/MC1/E616 - E-tender/2026

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ3:ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:04:2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:03.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ– 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/ ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜು) ರವರು ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶಾಖೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192 234444 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಸೂಚನೆ : 1) ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 2) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಅದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

(1) ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 03.07.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 **(2)** ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 04.07.2026 ಸಮಯ 17.30 **(3)** ಫ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್(>100 ಲಕ್ಷ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: : 25.06.2026 ಸಮಯ 11:00 **(4)** ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.07.2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ

ದಾಸಾ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/122/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

11001/90/2627

COUNCIL OF HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION, ODISHA

Prajnapitha, Samantapur, Bhubaneswar-13
Website : https://chseodisha.nic.in

Notice Inviting RFP

No. ACD/08/2025/ **2492** Date : **03.06.2026**

Subject: Selection of CPSU for development of e-content for teaching and learning in classes XI & XII under CHSE, Odisha

COUNCIL OF HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION, Odisha, invites sealed proposals from eligible **CPSUs** for development of E-content for Class XI and XII of CHSE, Odisha.

The RFP document will be available on the CHSE website at: **https://chseodisha.nic.in**

CPSUs meeting the eligibility criteria as prescribed in the RFP may access and download the complete RFP for submission of bids.

Pre-bid meeting with prebid queries shall be held on 08.06.2026 at 11.00 AM.

Any clarification / amendment, in bid document, as per decision taken in the pre-bid meeting shall be published/notified in the CHSE website **https://chseodisha.nic.in** on 12.06.2026

Last date of submission of bids fulfilling all formalities is 22.06.2026 at 5.00 PM.

The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the bids/ cancel the bidding process without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
SECRETARY, CHSE (O)
OIPR-11001/11003/1/26-27/0002

12001/35/2627

ODISHA POLICE STATE HEADQUARTERS Cuttack

Odisha Police

Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
Tel.:0671-2304001, Website : www.odishapolice.gov.in
Email: sphars.orpol@nic.in & aig-prov.dopol@od.gov.in

RFP No. 02-RFP-Security Guard Puri- 2026-2027 **Date :03.06.2026**

Online Bids through e-Tender Portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** are invited from the eligible bidders for selection of Security Service Provider for hiring of security guards & supervisors for upcoming Car Festival 2026-2027 from 13.07.2026 to 27.07.2026 during the current financial year 2025-26 as per the schedule mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Ref No
1.	Selection of Security Service Provider for hiring of security guards & supervisors for upcoming Car Festival 2026-2027 from 13.07.2026 to 27.07.2026	02-RFP-Security Guard Puri-2026-2027 Date-03.06.2026

No	Event Description	Estimated Date
1	Tender Reference Number	02-RFP-Security Guard Puri- 2026-2027 Date: 03.06.2026
2	Submission of Online Bid Start Date	Date: 04.06.2026
3	Last Date & Time for Submission of online Bid	Date: 12.06.2026 till 11:30 AM
4	Opening of Bid (Online)	Date: 12.06.2026 04:30 PM
5	To be informed technically qualified bidders	To be informed to technically qualified bidders
6	Reverse Auction enable	Yes
7	Tender Fee	Tender Fees: Non-refundable Rs. 590/- (Rs.500/- + 18% GST (Rs. 90/-))
8	EMD	E.M.D: Rs. 80,000 (Rupees eighty thousand Only)

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: https://tendersodisha.gov.in The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning.) Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)
OIPR-12001/12029/1/26-27/0008

25001/294/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA

email - serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

Letter No : 2557 **Date: 01.06.2026**

NATIONNAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GePNIC e_Procurement Notice

1. Name of the work : Construction of Road Works - 23 Nos.
2. Class of contractor : "B" Class & "A" Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs. 106.13 Lakhs to Rs. 497.85 Lakhs (Approximately)
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCS BD-Online-21/2026-27	06.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	30.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	29.06.2026 up to 2.00 P.M.	01.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the website **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0026

11001/89/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Lokaseva Bhavan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar - 751001
Phone: 0674-2390154 | Website: https://dhe.odisha.gov.in | Mail: sectionithed@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Sealed tenders are invited from all interested PSUs of Central and State Government for development of 83 digital application modules along with a resource deployment component and integrate with existing portal of the Department. In view of the above, all eligible PSUs are requested to study the proposed requirements and prepare a detailed project report (DPR). The DPR should comprehensively cover the functional scope, proposed system architecture, implementation strategy, cost estimation, resource requirements, expected development timeline and recommendations relating to technical integration with Higher Education Information Management System. The last date of submission of tender is **on or before 24.06.2026, 5 PM.** Tender received after stipulated date shall not be entertained.

For more details visit our official website **https://dhe.odisha.gov.in**

NOTE- The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Tenders must be sent via speed/Registered Post/Courier to:
Additional Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Lokseva Bhawan, BBSR-751001 Or By MAIL: **sectionithed@gmail.com**

OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0009

34001/299/2627

Government of Odisha, e-Procurement Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.Dkl.(R&B) 04/2026-27
Email Id-sedklpwd@gmail.com
Letter No. 1126 / Dt. 29/05/2026

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as detailed below:

1. Name of the work	:	Building works
2. No of works	:	10 (Ten) Nos
3. Estimated Cost	:	**Rs.1.85 Crore to Rs.3.77 Crore (as given in column No. 03 of table)**
4. Cost of tender paper	:	Rs 10,000.00
5. Class of contractor	:	'B' Class & 'A' Class **(as given in column No. 07 of table)**
6. Period of Completion of work	:	07 (Seven) to 11 (Eleven) calendar months **(as given in column No. 08 of table)**
7. Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website	:	From Dt.08.06.2026 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.22.06.2026
8. Date of opening of bid	:	Dt.23.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE biding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.** Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal
OIPR-34001/34132/1/26-27/0007

25001/293/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA

Email ID - ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com

Letter No. 1769 **Date: 01.06.2026**

1st Corrigendum

In Continuation to this office bid identification No. NCB-03/ RWCRGDA/2026-2027 invited vide this office letter No-1558 dated.12.05.2026 partial modification of TCN has been made as follows:

Sl No	Item	Time Schedule as per Original TCN	Time Schedule as per Corrigendum Notice
1	Availability of Tender online for bidding	Dt.22.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to Dt.09.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Extended from Dt.22.05.2026 at 5.00 P.M. up to 5.00 PM of Dt.17.06.2026
2	Date and Time of seeking tender clarification if any	Dt.08.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.16.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.
3	Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Dt.10.06.2026 At 11.00 A.M.	Dt.18.06.2026 At 11.00 A.M.
4	Date & Time of opening of tender (Price Bid)	Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders	Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Rayagada
OIPR-25001/25196/1/26-27/0015

25001/298/2627

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ପ୍ରାକ୍ତନ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଅମ୍ବାପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୭୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

(At/Po- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail : serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No. : 0680-2404287)

E-Mail / E-Despatch

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender /08-2026-27/BPR

Identification No	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 08-2026-27/BPR	Road Works under MMSY-Improvement to Existing RD roads & Mukya Mantri Sadak Yojana (MMSY)	19 Nos	From Rs. 108.80 lakhs to Rs. 714.82 Lakhs	"B" Class or "A" Class or "Special" Class as applicable	Period of Completion as provided as per Col. No. 5 of Annexure of NIT

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur	Online Tender/08-2026-27/BPR	25.06.2026 at 10.00 A.M.	09.07.2026 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) **EMD/Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.**
(ii) **Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.**

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
R.W. Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-25001/25071/1/26-27/0012

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

BIHAR LOK BHAVAN, PATNA-800022

ADDENDUM TO ADVERTISEMENT

Regarding Invitation of Applications for appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors in the Select Universities of Bihar.

In continuation of the advertisement issued for appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the applications were invited through the portal **https://vcrec.samarth. ac.in/,** with the last date for submission originally notified as 1st July 2026, and the same were widely published in State and National newspapers on 2nd June 2026 vide PR no. 004719/26-27 in the 14 Universities of Bihar listed below, the following addendum is hereby issued in continuation of point no.2:

"The ten (10) years experience will be calculated from the date of issuance of notification for the Professorship."

This will be treated as part of the original advertisement.

Note: The advertisement, application format, and detailed guidelines are available on the website of the Governor's Secretariat, Bihar. (https://governor.bih.nic.in/). All the other points listed under eligibility criteria, dates and general instructions remain same.

Sl. No.	Name of the Universities
1.	Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur
2.	Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Madhepura
3.	Jai Prakash University, Chapra
4.	Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga
5.	L.N. Mithila University, Darbhanga
6.	Magadh University, Bodh Gaya
7.	Maulana Mazharul Haque Arabic & Persian University, Patna
8.	Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur
9.	Veer Kunwar Singh University, Ara
10.	Patliputra University, Patna
11.	Munger University, Munger
12.	Purnea University, Purnea
13.	Patna University, Patna
14.	Nalanda Open University, Nalanda

(Sanjay Kumar)
Additional Secretary
Bihar Lok Bhavan, Patna, Bihar

PR- 004911 (Governor Secretariat) 2026-27

उक्त सूचना **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Three arrested in 'Khan sir' coaching centre attack case

Patna: Bihar police Wednesday arrested three persons, including a coaching institute director, after another coaching institute in Patna run by Faisal Khan, popularly known as Khan sir, was attacked late Tuesday night.

Coaching institute director Roshan Anand and his associates Abhishek and Gaurav have been sent to judicial custody and are being questioned, said town DSP-1 Rajesh Ranjan.

Videos of the incident, widely shared on social media, showed several people assaulting a security guard, hurling bricks and stones, and tearing down posters outside the institute. The guard sustained head injuries and is undergoing treatment at Patna Medical College and Hospital.

Khan alleged the attack was orchestrated by Roshan's institute, located adjacent to his centre. Roshan, however, denied it while being taken to court and told reporters it was Khan's "conspiracy" to frame him and ruin his institute's reputation. Residents said the dispute arose after Khan's poster was put up above Roshan's institute. TNN

PSB account not needed for re-evaluation fee, says CBSE

Portal Stable After Cyberhit Attempts

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Amid confusion among candidates following launch of the system earlier this week, CBSE on Wednesday clarified that students applying for verification and re-evaluation of Class XII answer sheets do not need to hold accounts with State Bank of India, Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda or Indian Bank for payments on board's online portal. Board also said the portal was functioning smoothly despite a major cyberattack attempt on Tuesday, when the system came under a barrage of denial-of-service attacks within minutes of its launch.

The clarification came after several students alleged on social media that the re-evaluation portal appeared to restrict payments to customers of these four banks. In a statement issued on X, CBSE said portal merely uses payment gateways operated by the four public sector banks. "Candidates may use the available online payment options — UPI, net banking, credit card and debit card — through the designated gateways," board said.

On the cyberattack attempt on Tuesday which generated nearly 1.5 million hits on portal within two minutes, along with more than one lakh attempts at unauthorised file access, board said its technical teams had been on the job continuously to maintain stability and security of the platform. "The portal has accepted 4,924 applications for verification and 39,056 applications for re-evaluation (total of 43,980) as of 12 noon today," CBSE said.

It added that students should rely only on official CBSE communication for information regarding the process. The verification and re-evaluation facility was opened on June 2 for students who had earlier obtained scanned copies of their answer books evaluated under board's new digital On-Screen Marking (OMS) system.

Representational photo

CBSE said the portal has accepted 4,924 applications for verification and 39,056 applications for re-evaluation as of noon Wednesday

Coaching centre owner booked for paper leak

Navi Mumbai: NRI coastal police in Navi Mumbai on Tuesday lodged an FIR against the owner of a Delhi-based coaching institute and an accomplice for allegedly leaking the question paper of an online actuarial statistics exam as well as the answers on a WhatsApp group formed exclusively for students enrolled in the classes. The exam was conducted on May 22, **reports George Mendonca**.

According to a complaint lodged by a representative of Institute of Actuaries of India, which conducts the CSIA (core statistics) exam and has an office in Seawoods, the owner of Alpha Plus Institute, Manish Malik, and aide Vani leaked the paper a few days before the test. Charges of cheating and common intention under BNS and cheating by personation using a computer resource under IT Act were invoked against the two.

CBI: RCom ex-group MD was 'main person' who dealt with banks

Rebecca.Samervel
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: A special court on Wednesday remanded Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, group managing director of Reliance Communications Group, arrested in a Rs 2,929 crore bank loan fraud case linked to the Reliance ADA Group, in CBI custody till June 5. In seeking custody, CBI alleged that Jhunjhunwala, was the was the "main person" who dealt with banks for loans and advances.

Specifically, CBI told the court that Jhunjhunwala secured a Rs 1,200 crore loan from SBI on Aug 29, 2016, just three days after submitting a formal request. The company's subsequent failure to repay the loan resulted in a wrongful loss of Rs 971 crore to the bank, CBI submitted through special public prosecutors A Limosin and Jitendra Kumar Sharma.

"Since, he was the main link between management, senior officials of the banks, information maybe obtained from him about management and utilization of funds borrowed from banks," the agency added.

Opposing the remand, advocate Mudit Jain submitted that the arrest was illegal. "I was called as witness in the case, which I obliged…A chargesheet has been filed in the case and I have no connection… they have not taken permission for further investigation," Jain argued on behalf of Jhunjhuwala. CBI on Monday arrested Jhunjhunwala after was brought to Mumbai by Tihar jail officials. CBI told the court that a case was registered based on SBI's complaint.

JHUNJHUNWALA IN CBI CUSTODY

Cops broker care pact after women abandon mom on NH

Guwahati: Assam Police intervened to help a 70-year-old woman abandoned on a national highway in Guwahati by her three daughters, securing a written agreement requiring them to care for their mother on a weekly rotation basis, **reports Mukut Das**. Cops from Garchuk police station found Kaushalya Das of Srihati in Sualkuchi block of Kamrup district wandering on the road on Tuesday, and rescued her. An officer from Garchuk police station said, "We spoke to her and found out that her daughters had left her on the highway saying they would return soon. However, they had not returned till police spotted her. The Sualkuchi police station was contacted and the woman was handed over to them."

Sualkuchi SHO Biki Barman told TOI: "We summoned all the three daughters of the woman and instructed them to take care of their mother. We handed over the woman to them after the trio signed a written agreement to take care of their mother," Barman said.

Ahead of June 6 protest, CJP names 3 spokespersons

New Delhi: Days ahead of the proposed June 6 protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Wednesday appointed three spokespersons, marking the first step towards the potential evolution of the online satirical into a more structured political campaign, amid growing anger over examination controversies and its demand seeking union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, **reports Manash Gohain**.

The three spokespersons are activist Vijeta Dahiya, former AAP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka, and Saurav Das who recently shot to fame by attacking Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma for not recusing herself from hearing CBI's challenge to Delhi high court's order to discharge AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal, his colleague Manish Sisodia and others, in the Delhi liquor 'scam' case.

In a statement on X, CJP said the appointments were aimed at helping "speak on behalf of the protest movement to the public and the media" and reflected its intent to "change the political discourse of India".

Addressing a press conference hours after CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke announced their appointment, the spokespersons claimed that formation of the outfit was driven by public anger over the controversies linked to NEET, CBSE , CUET and other examinations, and dismissed the suggestion that they were proxies of governing BJP's political opponents. Responding to questions about CJP's alleged links with AAP, Ranka said, "Our past affiliations are not important. This fight is bigger than that. CJP is bigger than an individual or any organisation."

Congress to cadre: Ignore CJP, focus on NEET-CBSE stir

New Delhi: Congress plans to intensify its agitation on NEET-CBSE controversies over next fortnight, amid a directive to party members that they should stay focused on issues pertaining to students and youth, without being distracted by plans of Cockroach Janta Party, **reports Subodh Ghildiyal**.

The announcement of physical protest by social media phenomenon CJP here on June 6 has raised the antennae in Congress that it could be another "India Against Corruption" strategy of political rivals. Deep research by Congress social media strategists and youth organisations has found CJP to be linked to a rival, and Congress has told its members that outfit's actions be treated with caution.

A key AICC strategist said, "We are watchful, but we are not worried. The country has been misled once, and it cannot be misled again." With Rahul Gandhi leading opposition's charge on NEET-CBSE controversies, the Youth Congress has hit the streets across cities that are believed to have a resonance on the twin issues. IYC chief Uday Bhanu Chib kicked off a nationwide protest in Goa on May 29, and the series would cover Maharashtra (Pune, Kolhapur, Mumbai), Telangana, Assam, Haryana, MP (Alirajpur, Gwalior), Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Punjab, and end with Tamil Nadu on June 20. The party's students' outfit NSUI too is holding protests across cities.

On June 6, when CJP holds the protest, IYC would hit the road in neighbouring Haryana. But Congress is still scarred by memories of the Anna Hazare agitation during UPA that led to creation of AAP.

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Teen beaten to death over train seat in MP stn

Bhopal: An 18-year-old was allegedly dragged out of a train coach and beaten to death by a group of men following a seat dispute at Bordehi railway station in MP's Betul district Monday. The deceased, Ali Khan, was travelling with his friends in Panchvalley Express from Chhindwara to Bhopal. GRP arrested four accused on Tuesday. Main accused Sagar, and some other unidentified attackers, are yet to be arrested. Police said the matter subsided initially but the accused called his associates to Bordehi station where 12 to 15 men assaulted Khan with sticks.

IN THE COURT OF XX ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE P & SC No. 223/2025
Petitioner (CCH32)
1. Mrs. Sudha Vasudeva Rao, W/o Late Mundaje Vasudeva Rao @Vasudeva Rao M, Aged about 67 years, Residing at No.003, Premier Residency, No.1, Lazar Road, Richards Town, Frazer Town, Bengaluru 560 005.
2. Mrs. Akshatha Rao, W/o Mr. Raghavendra Ramdas, D/o Late Mundaje Vasudeva Rao @ Vasudeva Rao M, Aged about 44 years, Permanent Resident of; #D-403, Rohan Jharoka Apartments, Mempapura Village, Behind HAL Airport, Varthur Hobli, Marathahalli colony, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru 560 037 Presently Residing at: Zilverschoonlaan 80, 1187 EC Amstelveen, The Netherlands.
v/s
M/s Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund, Mumbai 400 097 And 2 Others. ...**Respondents**

PUBLIC NOTICE

To: Respondent No.2
M/s ICICI Prudential Asset Management, Ltd, Rep by Officer-in-Charge Customer \Service, Unit # 101-104, First Floor, Phoenix Pinnacle, 46, Ulsoor Road, Bengaluru - 560 042.

WHEREAS, the above named petitioners have filed a petition to this Court under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act for grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule was held by Late Mundaje Vasudeva Rao @ Vasudeva Rao M, husband of the 1st petitioner / Father of the 2nd petitioner, herein who expired on 08.05.2022. Respondent No.2 is hereby called upon to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader duly instructed on 25th Jun 2026 at 11 a.m. inform to show cause against the petition, failing which the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

Sl No	Name of the Financial Institution	Folio No.	As on date	Present market value in INR
1	Kotak Mutual Fund	8239938/54	19.08.2024	Rs. 30,54,595.00
2	ICICI Prudential Asset Management	1712817749	9.08.2024	Rs. 12,33,623.81
3	SBI Mutual Fund	25924188	9.08.2024	Rs. 12,33,237.61
			Total	55,21,456.42

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 1/6/2026
Address for service:
Shri VISHNU BHAT & P SREEDHARA, Advocates, No.24, Raghavendra Mansion, 1st Floor, 1st Main, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru 560 020Ph: 94486 69491
By Order Of The Court Senior Serstedar City Civil Court Bengaluru

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES)
Podium Block,3rd Floor, V.V Tower, Bengaluru-560001
e-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com, Phone No.080-29565353

No. SPLOCA/ADM/30/2024-25 **Date: 01.06.2026**

NOTIFICATION

Resume are invited from interested agencies/interested individuals to fill up the following various posts on contract basis which have been sanctioned by Government and not filled up to the Office of the Special Officer and the Competent Authority (IMA and Other Scam). The applications shall be submitted to the above office. **Last date of submission of Resume: 15.06.2026. 5.00PM**

Name of the Posts

Sl. No	Post/ Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	**Law Officer [To work in the offices of the CAs in Regional commissioner's office, Bangalore**	LLB. LLM Registered at Bar council of Karnataka	LLM	Minimum 5 years experience in High court	10 years experience in High court & other courts	1	75,000/- to 85,000/- depending on Experience

Sl. No	Post/ Designation	No. of Post	Maximum Contract wage per month (Actual shall depend upon qualification & Experience, satisfactory completion of probation)	Qualification
1	Assistant Controller	1	Rs. 65,000/- to Rs. 75,000/-	Preferred Retired from the State or Indian Audit & Accounts Department within the last 2 years in equivalent position, with minimum qualification of B. Com for Assistant controller Should have clean service records (there shall be no suspension, Departmental Enquiry, Criminal Case) Age: Not more than 65 years. Or M COM with experience of working as Chief AC in a PSU/ Firm.

The Position is renewable year on year. It is a post on contract, renewable on satisfactory performance with periodic enhancement of salary scales, **not a permanent government service**

Sd/-
Special Officer and Competent Authority, (IMA & Other Scam),
Revenue Department, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/961/Zen/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to Purchase with respect to properties mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder, with its owner, **Mrs. Alice Carri,** wife of late Mr. S. X. Carri. The Owner represents that she is the absolute owner of the Schedule Properties and have good marketable, right, title and interest therein and that apart from them, there are no other entity/ies, person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Properties. The Owner further represents that they have not entered into any Agreements/MoU with any entity/ies, person/s and that they have not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered the Schedule Properties or any part thereof in any manner, to any person/s. Any person/s having objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence, lodge their objection(s)/claim(s) **within 21 (Twenty-one) days** from the date of publication of this Notice with the Undersigned failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transactions.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the lands in serial Nos. 1 and 2, measuring in total 9 Acres 04 Guntas, all situated at Gadenahalli and Navarathna Agrahara Villages, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, and the details of the properties are as follows:

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Village	Extent		Boundaries				Conversion Status	Conversion Order
			Acres	Guntas	East	West	North	South		
1	E-Khatha No. 150200200900420846 Survey No. 111	Navarathna Agrahara	04	25	Land bearing Survey No.110	Land bearing Survey No.112 & Gadenahalli Village Border	Land bearing Survey No.113	Gadenahalli Village Border	Residential	A.L.N: (Jala) SR:80/2014-15 Dtd. 04-07-2015
2	E-Khatha No. 150200200900420848 Survey No. 112	Navarathna Agrahara	04	19	Land bearing Survey No.111	Gadenahalli Village Border	Land bearing Survey No.113	Gadenahalli Village Border	Residential	A.L.N: (Jala) SR: 81/2014-15 Dtd. 04-07-2015

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 03-06-2026

Jayanth M Pattanshetti & Sushanth J Pattanshetti, Advocates,
Jayanth Pattanshetti Associates LLP
102, Ground Floor, "Rams Infantry Manor", No.70, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001. Ph: 9980530355

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to enter into a Purchase with respect to properties mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder, with its owner, **M/s. Rashi Developers,** a registered Partnership firm, Represented by its Partners **(1) Mr. S. Ramana Prasad Reddy, (2) Mr. Shivkumar .C. Udasi** having its office at No. C-205, 2nd floor, House of Lords, St, Marks Road, Bengaluru-560001.The Owner represents that it is the absolute owner of the Schedule Properties and have good marketable, right, title and interest therein and that apart from them, there are no other entity/ies, person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Properties. The Owner further represents that they have not entered into any Agreements/MoU with any entity/ies, person/s and that they have not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered the Schedule Properties or any part thereof in any manner, to any person/s. Any person/s having objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence, lodge their objection(s)/claim(s) **within 21 (Twenty-one) days** from the date of publication of this Notice with the Undersigned failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transactions.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the lands in serial Nos. 1 to 3, measuring in total 9 Acres 14 Guntas, all situated at Gadenahalli and Navarathna Agrahara Villages, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, and the details of the properties are as follows:

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Village	Extent		Boundaries				Conversion Status	Conversion Order
			Acres	Guntas	East	West	North	South		
1	33/1	Gadenahalli	02	04	Land bearing Survey No. 34/1	Land bearing Survey No. 33/2 & Survey No. 33/3 (earlier part of Survey No. 33/1)	Navarathna Agrahara Boundary	Road, Land bearing Survey Nos. 22, 36 & Survey No. 33/3 (earlier part of Survey No. 33/1)	Residential	ALN: [NA](Jala) SR:96/12-13 dtd. 21-03-2013
2	34/1	Gadenahalli	02	10	Ramaining Protion of Survey No. 34/1	Land bearing Survey No. 33/1	Navarathna Agrahara Boundary	Road .	out of which 01 acre 36 Guntas is Residentially Converted land & 14 Guntas reserved for High Tension Power line	ALN: [NA](Jala) SR:69A/11-12 dtd. 04-08-2011
3	E-Khatha No. 150200200900420845 Survey No. 110	Navarathna Agrahara	05	23	Land bearing Survey No.109	Land bearing Survey No.111	Land bearing Survey No.114 (Lake)	Gadenahalli Village Border	Residential	ALN: (Jala) SR: 79/2014-15 Dtd. 04-07-2015

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 03-06-2026

Jayanth M Pattanshetti & Sushanth J Pattanshetti, Advocates,
Jayanth Pattanshetti Associates LLP
102, Ground Floor, "Rams Infantry Manor", No.70, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001. Ph: 9980530355

A thought for today

It's tough to negotiate from a position of weakness

ROBERT KIYOSAKI

More Arm Twisting

US's latest tariff threat is illogical. India should challenge it, but offer no concessions under pressure

Trump's Iran war has cost Americans about $100bn already – twice the estimated *real* earnings from his reciprocal tariffs. While it's true that US pocketed an *additional* $214bn from tariffs, it's got to refund some $165bn, since Scotus deemed those tariffs illegal in Feb. Yet, Trump is unfazed. He loves tariffs so much that he's trying to hit dozens of trade partners with new duties, in late June or early July. Which is, coincidentally, close to the July 24 expiry date of his 10% universal tariff.

Knowing this, what should we make of the US move to hit India with a new 12.5% tariff, for allegedly not doing enough to prevent trade in goods made with forced labour? To be clear, US is not saying that India uses forced labour to make US-destined goods. Rather, it's arguing that India itself buys goods made elsewhere with forced labour. How is it America's problem? It isn't, but for the sake of tariffs, Trump's admin is using it as a fig leaf. US trade representative Jamieson Greer has said such imports hurt American workers, who are "forced to compete globally on an unlevel playing field".

This is stretching Section 301 of the US Trade Act – under which India and 53 other countries stand accused. The law was meant to investigate unfair policies and practices by other countries that hurt US commerce. For example, IPR practices in China. But wagging a finger at EU, India, Canada, etc, for the goods they buy is taking unilateralism too far. It's also hypocritical, because rare earths, some other metals, coffee, pharmaceuticals, aircraft parts, etc, remain exempt from tariffs related to forced labour. Hence, exploitation of, say, cobalt miners, is fine if it suits US.

The 12.5% tariff hasn't been imposed yet. India can request a hearing, and it should. But US intent is already clear. It's oddly timed when the US-India trade deal is in a "commas and full stops phase", per commerce minister Piyush Goyal. It's more than likely that US is using this tariff threat to get some more concessions from India. But India should stand firm. It's better to pay a tariff than to succumb to US blackmail. In fact, the two negotiations should not be mixed. So far, India has said it "remains engaged" with US on both issues – Section 301 and the trade deal. It should stay the course.

Saheb And Bibi

Trump should call out Netanyahu publicly for prolonging the conflict. He has the cards. Use them

Having the courage to tell a friend he is wrong is hard. It's no different in international diplomacy. Trump's reported expletive-ridden phone call with Netanyahu – although Tel Aviv denies any personal attacks from the American president – shows how complicated the US-Israel relationship has become in the context of the Iran war. Trump publicly still maintains an image of coordination with the Israelis. But the cracks are showing.

It's apparent Tel Aviv's goals for this war are vastly different from Washington's. The latter, despite Trump's contradictory messaging, can be boiled down to denying Iran a nuclear bomb. The former seemingly aim to reorient West Asian geopolitical landscape in favour of Israel. Hence, Tel Aviv appears to be following a three-pronged approach – hit Iran to weaken the regime and its regional sinews, make it impossible to have a viable Palestine state – Netanyahu's ordered reoccupation of 70% of Gaza – and create a buffer zone with Lebanon. The problem: serious economic pain for the world through the Iranian closure of Hormuz.

But Tel Aviv, backstopped by US, doesn't seem to care. And when an Israeli PM seemingly appears to give short shrift to an American president on ending the war, the world suffers. The equation is simple: Iran wants an end to hostilities on all fronts, including Lebanon. Lebanon wants a stop to the war that has killed more than 3,400 of its residents. Palestinians, who have suffered tremendously, want their nightmare to end. Hamas and Hezbollah are hugely weakened and battered. Yet, Netanyahu pursues policies that seem to sync with Israeli radicals dreaming of 'Greater Israel'.

So, Trump – also looking for an exit – now has two problems: the Ayatollahs and Netanyahu. Tehran, with its Hormuz chokehold, is willing to wait for what it sees as a fair deal. That's bad for Trump and the world. Netanyahu wants to continue the war – again bad for Trump and the world. Trump isn't the first US president to be frustrated with Netanyahu. But Bibi is increasingly a stumbling block to peace and global stability. Perhaps it's time for Trump to publicly call out his pal on this. He has the cards.

Why only Vinesh?

Everyone's wrestling with someone/something

Bachi Karkaria

So Vinesh Phogat ultimately didn't make it past the Asian Games trials, despite tormentor WFI reluctantly allowing our champion grappler to compete in her newly chosen 53kg category. Remember how a heart-breaking 100gm extra disqualified her from the 50kg bout at the 2024 Paris Olympics?

But, helloh, she's not the only one, no? At any given moment, thousands in any gender category are wrestling with Vinesh's same-to-same weight problem. It's minimum demand of the highly competitive Image Olympics. That's why Ozempic-sunken cheeks are today's hottest look.

Actually, grappling has become the top (non) sport; everyone's activity *du jour. Jor se.*

Ranveer-Dhurandhar is grappling with Farhan-FWICE.

Red-carpet divas with their costume-cages.

'Influencees' with the demands of influencers.

The hormonal horny and hoity-toity publishers alike are grappling with doubts over their object of drool: human or pornbot/AI slop?

Gujarat Titans with losing face more than finals. The (un)match was before home crowd *and* in a stadium named after the state's former CM. Btw, would India losing an international championship there be deemed anti-national?

Sooryavanshi, just 15, must grapple with fame.

The rest of GenZ with too little time; GenA with too much. The former with acne; the latter with arthritis and adult diapers.

Children grapple all year with homework; their mothers with housework in the help-less month of May.

Kids with the conflicting pulls of parental 'Don't' and peer 'Just Do It'.

Students with the fear that the exam they've swotted years for will be cancelled.

Delhi Gymkhana with central sarkar; Bombay's Turf Club with state one.

Slum-dwellers with bulldozers.

BMC with acute problem of 'monsoon preparedness' and chronic encroachment.

Public with too much *garmi*, too little *rozi-roti*, *sadak*, *pani*, fuel, LPG.

El Nino is grappling with Iran war for 'Top Global Disaster' crown. Maybe, they've already been Trumped.

***

Alec Smart said: "Online Marking System, is Offline Maha Shame."

Kids Took Charge. Listen To Them

GenZ's ripped the mask off India's horror entrance exam system that students have been forced to obey for years, even as many dreams went bust. Now, they've themselves dealt with what threatens their future. Govt, waste not this moment

Shinjini Kumar

In our family, 'the cow ate my homework' was not a joke. It was a painful story about a very sincere teacher-aunt. She was checking board exam papers one summer afternoon, on her verandah, when a cow chewed some of the papers, taking advantage of her brief absence to fetch a glass of water. 'Average marking' was done, but auntie carried that guilt forever.

For a country where education has been sold to parents and children as religion – *karm*, *dharm* and *moksh*, we did not build the most reliable, scalable or unimpeachable system of education or evaluation. What we *did* build was remarkable trust. In that sense, education in India is similar to financial services – plagued by problems, but trusted by users and participants alike.

We haven't landed in this complicated situation overnight. For years, we studied with religious fervour for various board and entrance exams, despite hearing stories of cheating or leaked papers. While I was stressing about my Board exams, a neighbour, engaged in the solemn business of getting people across the matriculation *vaitarani*, joked he could make his goat score 90%.

Probably because of the absurdity of it, we carried on with the stress, setting examples for other children, for whom the only way to come out of their mediocre schools and limited lives, was to crack exams – engineering, medical, civil services, banking, insurance, CA, MBA, UGC-NET and so on.

What we did not count on was the sad reality of the derived aphorism – what happens in Bihar today, happens in India tomorrow. We grew up with rigged exams, results, bribes-for-jobs and yet believed things would get better. Even as things got worse with lack of investment, intent, or massive expansion of a system not designed for scale or integrity, we raised the next generations, the millennials, the Gen Z or the Alpha, forcing our optimism and trust down their unwilling throats.

We knew the system was not good enough. But we learnt to be indifferent to the plight of the majority, sheltering under the fragile roof of trust, so long as our children could take the way out – IB schools, premium private colleges, education abroad, jobs abroad, entrepreneurship, family office, and so on.

For the rest of India, trust in central boards like CBSE or centralised exams like JEE or NEET continued, even as farmers sold land or mothers crimped household budgets, to send children to private schools and coaching centres. Capital poured into edutech to capitalise on this aspiration. On the other hand, govt efforts to over-centralise and use tech created fresh challenges.

Image: AI

While Boomers gripe about young people's recalcitrance to conform to the system, whether it be office timing, language, clothing or coffee, young people appear to see something that is undeniably a problem – that there is no way this system will support their aspirations of living a healthy, happy or wealthy life. So why not drink that fancy coffee and keep moving on? This tussle plays out everywhere. At home, at work and quite ruthlessly in educational institutions because that is where promise meets reality, time meets purpose and mind, hopefully, meets like-mind.

Yet, many teenagers are not even privileged to be on a campus. They are in a dystopian Gulag – a space crowded with coaches, roaches, mock-exam papers, applications, depression and prayers – just to see their name in the list.

So, what happens when you find that the exam is rigged? That the paper was leaked, that there will be a retest? How do you hold on to the last shred of optimism your parents gave you – "kiddo, clear the exam this one time, and everything will fall in place"? The leaking roof has caved in. And it's raining not just corruption and inefficiency, but indifference and arrogance.

Media reports of farmer suicides, dowry deaths, mob lynchings, honour killings, financial fraud suicides have, tragically, inured us to the idea of such deaths. Student suicides are a new kind of low, even for us. No marks, no life.

Your lifeboats were sinking with the ship, and the crew was still telling you, 'aal is well.' As a student, you went deeper into the system, only to find your marks weren't yours at all. You encountered a broken payment gateway. You encountered a corrupt tender process. You took charge. Armed with what you have: tech, which does not require passports and licences, to master. Social media that allows you to have a voice. Examples of other young people who made a difference. Supporters in your family or outside. All you need to do is to breach the false prestige of being obedient and content and deal with what threatens your life, here and now.

And that is the story of the young men, Vedant, Nisarga, Sarthak and the others, including those who turned up to protest and faced detention and custody.

It has taken us many decades to get here. It will not be wished away or resolved with one resignation. It will take all of us. The captain, crew and passengers all need to face the fact that there are holes in the ship. And that the iceberg of AI and cyber threats is coming.

Indian talent is building global companies, but India is ill-equipped to run an exam on which millions of dreams depend. If the young are seeing the problem, help them solve it. Stop brushing it under the carpet. And certainly, stop blaming the students.

Kumar is a former banker and author of 'Busy Women'

When History Begins Disappearing From The Plate

The version of vegetarianism that seeks to rule the menu, wants to decide who gets to be powerful, and who gets erased. It seeks to rewrite India's public culture and push meat-eaters to the margins

Devdutt Pattanaik

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the Sanatan Dharm being marketed today, is a Hinduism that establishes purity through vegetarian food. The latest evidence is Uttar Pradesh govt releasing a "One District, One Cuisine" list, which does not include a single meat dish. Remember, this is a state where most people, including most Hindus, eat meat.

Meanwhile, in Mumbai, there are growing calls to stop fish vendors from selling on the streets, basically to remove meat from public view. There are cities seeking to ban meat shops and meat-serving establishments within a 15km radius of any Hindu temple. Such a rule would, given the density of temples in our country, effectively impose vegetarianism across vast tracts of it.

A few years ago, when the National Museum planned a Harappan food festival, it was quietly instructed to serve only vegetarian fare. Even though the Harappans are well known to have eaten beef, pork, fish, and a wide variety of meats. History was rewritten on the menu card.

Let us be honest about what this is. This is not compassion for animals, not all of it. This is also the imposition of a belief system, no different in structure from how Islamic countries impose halal or how orthodox Jewish communities impose kosher. Food is one of the most powerful tools to establish identity, and the Sanatani Hindu lobby is now doing through "satvik" what others have done through their dietary codes.

It is true that when you walk into Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram, RSS offices, Jain, Vaisnav and Swaminarayan temples, or a Sikh gurdwara, the one common feature is the strictly vegetarian canteen and the vegetarian priesthood. But if wealthy and politically influential vegetarian communities are imposing their food habits on everyone else, this was not always so. In medieval times, Jain traders served the Sultans of Delhi and the Mughal Badshahs, without imposing their diet on the court.

The popular story is that vegetarianism is rooted in compassion. Gandhi used this language. But this compassion is curiously selective. Often, it does not extend to the meat-eater whose house is bulldozed, whose shop is shut, whose livelihood is destroyed, or to the forests being destroyed, and tribes being displaced for mines, industries, and gated communities.

Image: AI

The unstated logic of this selective compassion is brutal: People who eat meat are cruel, and therefore deserve no compassion themselves. By this logic Muslims become cruel, Christians become cruel, Dalits become cruel, Adivasis become cruel. And once dehumanised this way, they can be jailed, evicted, beaten, with the conscience of the majority intact. This logic also masks three truths the vegetarian lobby would prefer we forget.

- One is caste. As the sociologist MN Srinivas showed in his work on Sanskritisation, when lower castes grew rich and sought upward mobility on the varna ladder, they were required to give up meat. Arya Samaj promoted this amongst Jats. Swaminarayan sect promoted this amongst Patels. Founders of both these movements came from vegetarian backgrounds and equated their diet with kindness, which by simple inversion painted the outsider as inherently cruel, hence unworthy of respect and compassion.
- The second truth concerns the equation of non-violence with renunciation. In Jain doctrine, ahimsa was always meant to be paired with aparigraha. Non-possession. The great Tirthankars shed their clothes to demonstrate aparigraha, not just ahimsa. Fasting to death was the ultimate practice, because Jain philosophy teaches that all consumption is violence. Not just eating, but also the consumption of luxuries, of mined diamonds, of forests cleared, of rivers polluted, of labour exploited. But the modern Jain trader and his political allies have amplified ahimsa, while burying aparigraha. They wear the diamonds and fly the private jets, while lecturing the poor about the kebab.
- The third truth concerns the tantric dimension, the most ignored of all. Across India, fierce goddesses who once received blood – Sachchiyay Mata in Rajasthan, Sharda, Kamakshi, Mookambika in the south – were turned vegetarian under the influence of Jain monks and Adi Shankaracharya. The logic of this is very particular: Blood offerings grant military power, vegetarian offerings grant wealth. The kings of Nepal kept offering blood and kept their kingdom. The Hindu kings of the Ganga plains, under mercantile pressure, switched to pumpkins. And lost their thrones to invaders, while the merchants stayed rich.

That, ultimately, is what is on the plate today. Not compassion. A very old bargain about who gets to be powerful, who gets to be pure, and who gets to be erased.

Calvin & Hobbes

CALVIN, ARE YOU SLAMMING DOORS?!
IT WASN'T ME, MOM! I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
LET ME OUT OF HERE, CALVIN, YOU ROTTEN BAG OF BARF!
WHEEE! OUR CLUBS FINEST HOUR!
WHERE'S SUSIE?
BEATS ME. MAYBE SHE WENT OUTSIDE.
I'M IN HERE! LET ME OUT!
WHY, SUSIE! WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE CLOSET, OF ALL PLACES?
CALVIN....
HE TRICKED ME IN THERE AND HELD THE DOOR!

Sacredspace

An attitude to life which seeks fulfilment in the single-minded pursuit of wealth, in short, materialism, does not fit into this world, because it contains within itself no limiting principle, while the environment in which it is placed is strictly limited.

EF Schumacher

Wars Create Victors, But The Planet Always Loses

Yogi Balkrishna

We have often celebrated victories in war, yet we seldom reflect deeply on the devastation left behind: poisoned rivers, scorched forests, contaminated oceans, darkened skies, and countless living beings displaced or destroyed. Wars do not merely wreck nations and wound humanity; they tear the very fabric of nature that sustains life. The lacerating ecological wounds carry on far longer than political disputes or territorial ambitions. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki inflicted severe immediate environmental damage, marked by the instant devastation of ecosystems, highly toxic radioactive fallout, and pronounced localised climatic disturbances like black rain.

Indic wisdom offers a profoundly different civilisational perspective. The Bharatiya worldview doesn't see nature as a resource to be exploited but as a sacred manifestation of the Divine. We revere our rivers, such as the Ganga, Yamuna and Narmada, as mothers. We worship the Sun as the deity who gives life and energises the world. In Panchamahabhuta Upasana, we meditate on earth, water, fire, air, and space as the foundational elements of existence. Trees such as Peepal, Banyan, Neem, and Tulsi are worshipped as protectors of life and symbols of continuity, purity and healing.

Ecological reverence is deeply woven into Indic cultural and spiritual practices. Even birds and animals find a sacred association through the *vahanas* of various deities. Nandi, the bull of Shiv, symbolises strength and patience; Garud, the eagle of Vishnu, represents courage and higher vision; the lion of Goddess Durga reflects power guided by righteousness; while the mouse of Ganesh reminds humanity that even the smallest life form has significance in cosmic harmony. Such symbolism cultivates coexistence rather than conquest.

THE SPEAKING TREE

The essence of Vedic wisdom is profoundly expressed in the Shanti Mantra of the Yajurved, *Om Dyauh Saantih*. The Vedic shanti mantra invokes peace not only for human beings but for the atmosphere, earth, waters, herbs, vegetation, and the entire cosmos. It reflects profound ecological consciousness. Peace, in this understanding, is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the equilibrium of existence.

Present-day warfare demonstrates exactly the opposite. Explosions of bombs and missiles release enormous quantities of greenhouse gases and toxic chemicals into the atmosphere, destroying forests, agricultural lands, and biodiversity corridors that may take centuries to regenerate.

The oceans, often the forgotten victims of war, suffer immensely. Naval warfare, oil spills, underwater detonations, and chemical leakages devastate marine ecosystems. Coral reefs are damaged, fish populations decline, and underwater acoustic disturbances disrupt the rhythm of aquatic life.

Air pollution during war reaches catastrophic levels. Burning infra, ammunition residues, and industrial destruction release carcinogenic particles and hazardous gases into the environment. The result is not merely immediate devastation but intergenerational ecological trauma.

Ecological devastation resulting from the ongoing wars endangers humanity and the Earth. It is Mother Earth that loses in every war. Today, we at are a critical juncture, and we ought to value the wisdom of Vedic seers that peace is not weakness; it is the highest form of collective intelligence.

World Environment Day is observed globally on June 5

erratica

Children grapple all year with homework; their mothers with housework in the help-less month of May.

Kids with the conflicting pulls of parental 'Don't' and peer 'Just Do It'.

Students with the fear that the exam they've swotted years for will be cancelled.

Delhi Gymkhana with central sarkar; Bombay's Turf Club with state one.

Slum-dwellers with bulldozers.

BMC with acute problem of 'monsoon preparedness' and chronic encroachment.

Public with too much *garmi*, too little *rozi-roti*, *sadak*, *pani*, fuel, LPG.

El Nino is grappling with Iran war for 'Top Global Disaster' crown. Maybe, they've already been Trumped.

They left Sikar, thinking NEET was over. Now they're back, paying the price again

This year's paper leak has forced thousands of students to return to this coaching hub, enduring heat, financial strain and anxiety, while questioning the system's credibility — even as the town itself struggles to fight off 'coaching mafia hub' rumours

ShoebKhan@timesofindia.com

In a crowded coaching centre admission hall in Rajasthan's Sikar, about 120km from state capital Jaipur, Renu Kumari fills out the re-registration form for the NEET-UG retest, scheduled for June 21. Her father stands a little distance away, watching.

"She returned home on May 4, the day after the examination. We celebrated when we learnt she was likely to score over 650, but that happiness lasted barely a week," he tells **TOI**.

Their happiness was short-lived due to this year's NEET being cancelled over paper leaks and irregularities. For Renu — and thousands like her, who chose to prepare for and take the test from this town — it's not just a simple matter of sitting for the retest. For many, it marks a return to a new cycle of coaching, lodging in Sikar for nearly a month, paying extortionate hostel rates they can ill afford, often sharing cramped rooms with other NEET hopefuls in the sweltering heat.

Renu's family — farmers from Barmer — have travelled to Sikar in a battered old car, packed with much of their belongings. Her mother has accompanied the rest of the family this time, planning to stay back with Renu until she takes the retest.

Renu's score of 650 — confirmed by her coaching institute's internal assessment — would have been enough to make the cut for a govt medical college. This year, thanks to the paper leak, it's a return to absolute zero for her. It's one of life's cruel twists of fate that she, and many others, have no choice but to accept.

"What is the govt doing? What exactly is NTA (National Testing Agency) doing?" Renu asks, pausing abruptly. Moments later, she breaks down. "It is not possible for my family to afford another month here."

The biggest story of this season's exam mess is, of course, the story of hope and heartbreak experienced by the thousands of NEET hopefuls. But, as the students speak, another story emerges: that of Sikar itself — of an economy built around coaching, now facing its sharpest credibility crisis.

45°C: Heat As A Class Story

The retest window has fallen in Rajasthan's harshest summer. The mercury has been touching 45°C during the day (which feels like 47-48°C), while nights are regularly in the 30-35°C range.

Even the heat is unequal. A handful of students can afford AC rooms and private flats. Most are packed into cramped hostel rooms with three or four others. Renu is sharing her room with three more students. Even the ceiling fan offers little relief, stopping multiple times a day during power cuts. Renu's study hours start after midnight, when the temperature briefly dips.

The hostel corridors smell of coolers, dust and instant noodles. "We somehow managed the first time. Doing this again is becoming very difficult," says a parent, accompanying his son for re-registration. Several families say that hostel rents have risen sharply since the retest announcement, and that the rates are now 40-60% higher than usual.

For many rural families whose daughters are in the NEET fray, the burden is also social. Parents say convincing conservative households to allow girls to stay back alone for another month required fresh negotiations inside families already reeling from economic stress.

For a few, though — such as Kuldeep Prajapat from Kotputli, who had not done too well — the retest means a second chance. "With another month of preparation, I think I can improve and maybe crack the exam this time," Kuldeep says.

Cost Of A Sikar Month

Conversations with students, parents and coaching administrators suggest one additional month in Sikar now costs Rs 20,000-25,000 on average. This price includes retest coaching (if students choose it), basic accommodation, food and travel. For those choosing better accommodation or staying with parents/guardians, it can easily rise to Rs 30,000-35,000.

Those who have already been in Sikar for a year, getting coached for NEET, may be able to avoid fresh admission fees, but many retest candidates are first-timers in Sikar's one-month classroom programmes. Some had prepared in Jaipur or Kota, but shifted to Sikar for the retest because they come from surrounding districts, and the cost of living is almost half of Kota's.

For them, the retest means another Rs 15,000-25,000 for coaching.

Hostels cost Rs 8,000-15,000 a month. Food, transport and daily expenses add Rs 5,000-8,000. Families travelling from villages and small towns spend another Rs 3,000-5,000 just to send the kids back.

The exact number of returning hopefuls is not officially known, but coaching operators and local administrators estimate the figure would be close to 15,000.

For middle-class families, it is immensely stressful. For farming households, it can be devastating. The average monthly income of an agricultural household in Rajasthan was around Rs 12,520, according to NSSO's 77th Round for 2018-19, the last time that the survey released that metric. Going by that, families like Renu's are being pushed to spend nearly three months of household income on an exam they believed had ended.

NTA has said that the retest is necessary to protect the exam's integrity. In Sikar, one question keeps returning: who pays when that integrity is compromised?

One additional month in Sikar now costs Rs 20,000-35,000 for existing students for retest coaching, basic accommodation, food and travel. First-time candidates in Sikar to train just for the retest can expect to spend Rs 15,000-25,000 on coaching fees alone

Psychological Wounds

Many students who had done well had started planning their lives in medical college. Their dreams are on hold, their minds now a melting pot of rage, hopelessness and anxiety. Rachna Poonia, one such student, fights back tears inside a coaching campus, about 2km from Renu's admission hall.

"What if I cannot perform at the same level again? Who will be responsible if something happens mentally to students?" she wonders.

Psychologists working with competitive exam aspirants describe the experience as closer to bereavement than routine exam anxiety. Rachna's mother, like Renu's, has decided to stay back in Sikar until the exam is over, saying her daughter has been depressed and needs emotional support.

"It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep students emotionally stable and academically focused," says a senior faculty member at a major coaching institute. "Many are dealing with exhaustion, anger and fear after spending years preparing for one exam, only to be pulled back into uncertainty again."

Suspense & Suspicion

Sikar itself has changed. The town — which became a national coaching powerhouse and a media sensation after producing NEET toppers in 2024 and 2025 — is dealing with suspicion, stigma and anger after the leak scandal.

Outside coaching institutes, hostel lanes and tea stalls, a new question greets unfamiliar faces: "Which media organisation are you from?" At several institutes, guards quietly alert reception desks when journalists enter. Faculty speak in hushed tones while discussing the CBI probe. Counsellors spend more time calming parents than discussing academics.

Viral posts call Sikar a "paper leak factory", circulating screenshots of its 2024 success rates as "proof" of earlier wrongdoing. "Our genuine success is now being used to discredit us," says Pradeep Bhudania, a founder of Gurukripa Career Institute (GCI).

Rise Of Sikar

Two years ago, Sikar was still seen as a smaller alternative to Kota. Then came the 2024 NEET district-wise results. For the first time, per NTA data, Sikar was the country's top-performing NEET district, overtaking Kota. Even local operators say they were surprised.

"The numbers shocked everyone, including us," says Anupam Agarwal of The Matrix Academy. "People across the country suddenly started asking how Sikar became number one."

Operators insist the rise was built over nearly three decades.

What was once a dusty stretch along Piprali Road and Nawalgarh Road is now Sikar's coaching belt — nearly 50 major coaching buildings, hostels, libraries and mess facilities.

Unlike Kota's more urban ecosystem, Sikar drew students from rural districts: Barmer, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jhunjhunu, Sriganganagar — because fees and hostels were cheaper. "For rural families, Sikar felt affordable and culturally comfortable," says Mahipal Khichad, who runs a girls' hostel in Jat Colony.

Sikar, he says, has nearly 2,100 hostels with around 50,000 seats, expanding every year.

Operators estimate that coaching contributes nearly Rs 2,000 crore annually through fees, hostels, transport, food services and rentals. After the 2024 results and consecutive toppers, institutes claim admissions rose by nearly 30% in 2025, even as some hubs elsewhere reportedly saw declining enrolments.

"My daughter returned home on May 4, the day after the examination. We celebrated when we learnt she was likely to score over 650, but that happiness lasted barely a week
— Father of Renu Kumari, a NEET aspirant

'Coaching Mafia Hub'

But, across campuses now filling again for the NEET-UG 2026 retest, Sikar is fighting a reputational war. In counselling halls, parents no longer ask only about ranks or hostels. Many ask a direct question: If an almost identical "guess paper" was circulating in Sikar before the exam, how can institutes claim no teacher, counsellor or student was involved?

After NEET 2024, Sikar topped NTA district data, overtaking Kota with a reported selection rate of nearly 7.6%, versus Kota's 3.9%. Admissions reportedly jumped nearly 30% in 2025 as students arrived from Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Operators say that success has made Sikar an easy target. One owner scrolled through social media posts calling Sikar a "paper leak factory" and "coaching mafia hub". "This campaign is being run systematically," he alleges. "The same comments are appearing everywhere. Rival coaching interests do not want Sikar's growth."

Even inside Sikar, the defence is no longer absolute. Some parents and students privately admit it is hard to believe a large circulation network could exist without local involvement at some level. Outside one institute, a father waiting for his son says: "Maybe the whole city is not guilty. But if papers were circulating here openly, how can nobody from the coaching system not know anything?"

The City's Pride — And Its Price

Sikar built its identity on one promise: a village student, if she worked hard, could become a doctor.

That promise survives. But the NEET 2026 paper leak has exposed the cost of a system that prized results without building safeguards to protect students, whose futures depended on those results being real.

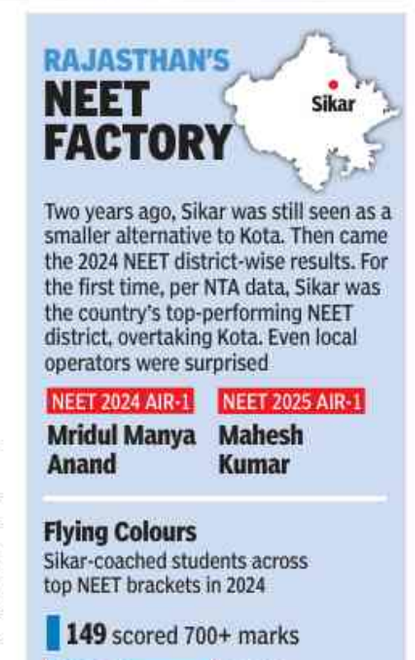
Renu's father is not asking for sympathy; he is asking for accountability. Like thousands returning to Sikar, he is still waiting for an answer.

Students at a coaching class in Sikar. Many students, who had taken NEET, have opted to get coaching again for the retest, scheduled for June 21

Photos: Sunil Parmuwal

Advertisement boards for NEET and other competitive exams clutter the skyline of Sikar, which has built a reputation over the years as a coaching hub

Students fill in forms for the NEET retest at a centre in Sikar


RAJASTHAN'S
NEET FACTORY
Sikar
Two years ago, Sikar was still seen as a smaller alternative to Kota. Then came the 2024 NEET district-wise results. For the first time, per NTA data, Sikar was the country's top-performing NEET district, overtaking Kota. Even local operators were surprised
NEET 2024 AIR-1
Mridul Manya Anand
NEET 2025 AIR-1
Mahesh Kumar
Flying Colours
Sikar-coached students across top NEET brackets in 2024
149 scored 700+ marks
650-700 2,037
600-650 4,297
All three numbers were highest of all districts in India
Source: District-wise NEET-UG 2024 data, released by National Testing Agency
Scale Of Industry
1.1 lakh students enrolled annually
8k NEET aspirants
30k JEE and other competitive exam aspirants
1,500 teaching staff
4k non-teaching staff
150-200 coaching centres (approx)
How Much Does It Cost?
Annual coaching fee ₹60,000 - ₹80,000
Monthly hostel/ PG rent ₹6,000 - ₹10,000

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD CIRCLE, BIKANER
No:- Asper Rajkaj Dt.:-19.05.2026
NIBCODE: - PWD2627A0616
NIB NO. 01/2026-27
Bid for Budget Announcement 2026-27 Various Atal Pragati Path works Sanctioned are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM dt. 09.06.2026 (Tuesday) Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurment portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and DIPR department website. The approximate values of the procument is Rs. 1554.03 Lakhs.
UBN Code No.
PWD2627WLOB02776, PWD2627WLOB02779, PWD2627WLOB02780
Superintending Engineer, PWD, Circle Bikaner
DIPR/C/9407/2026

अजमेर विकास प्राधिकरण, अजमेर
Website :- www.rajasthan.gov.in/ada, Tel.No. :- 0145-2627740-2627749
E-TENDER - 07/2026-27
In the above NIT, Bids for work at Sr. No. 1 amounting Rs. 682.54 Lacs are invited from interested bidders up to 23.06.2026 6:00 pm and for work at Sr. No. 2 amounting Rs. 371.00 Lacs upto 18.06.2026 6:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) & (http://sppp.raj.nic.in), http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/ada departmental website. AJD2627WLOB00039, AJD2627WSOB00040 - 43
Raj.Samwad/C/26/4044
Executive Engineer

कार्यालय नगर परिषद बून्दी
-:: निविदा सूचना ::-
नगर परिषद बून्दी द्वारा जारी निविदा संः नप0बू0 / निर्माण / 2026-27 / 2794 दिनांक 27 / 05 / 2026 की निविदा दिनांक 08 / 06 / 2026 से दिनांक 29 / 06 / 2026 06.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन विक्रय की जावेगी। निविदा दिनांक 30 / 06 / 2026 को 04.00 बजे ऑनलाईन खोली जावेगी। विस्तृत शर्तें व विवरण निविदा sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर DLB2627WLOB05865, तथा कार्यालय समय मे किसी भी कार्यदिवस को नगर परिषद मे देखा जा सकता है।
आयुक्त
नगर परिषद, बून्दी
राज.संवाद / सी / 26 / 3954

Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development and Port and Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PORT DIVISION, BAITKHOL, KARWAR, UTTAR KANNADA-581302
Phone: 08382-229672 Email: eepdkwr4@gmail.com
NO.EE/PDK/TND/2026-27/169 Date: 01-06-2026
Invitation for tenders (IFT) Re-Tender Notification
From the office of the Executive Engineer, Port Division, Karwar, 03 Works (Tender Amount Rs.2171837.00, Rs.7023467.08 ಮತ್ತು Rs.6992878.02) Tender is invited in E-Procurement to execute the service. To participate in E-Procurement and for more information may be obtained in (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) website. Last date for clarification and queries for tender is 12-06-2026 at 4.00 PM and Last date for Tender Submission is 16-06-2026 at 5.00 PM. For further extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/173/26-27 dt. 03.06.2026
Sd/- Executive Engineer Port Division, Karwar

FAKIR MOHAN UNIVERSITY
Vyasa Vihar, Nuapadhi, Balasore, Odisha, Pin- 756089
Phone: 06782-275787/ Fax: 06782-275768
Email : registrarfmuniversity@gmail.com
Website: www.fmuniversity.nic.in
No: Estt.(T)-II-04/2026/5076 Date- 03.06.2026
CORRIGENDUM
In partial modification to this Office Advertisement No. Estt.(T)-II-04/2026/4148 Dtd. 02.05.2026, the last date for submission of online application form and the last date of receiving hard copy of the online generated application form are hereby extended to 16th June, 2026 and 23rd June, 2026 (upto 05.00 PM) respectively.
All other terms and conditions in the said Advertisement are remain unaltered.
By order of Vice Chancellor
Sd/-
Registrar

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office : Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003 Telangana, India CIN : U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)
HOD - Electrical, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of :
1 Tender Enquiry No.158/GATP/EMD/AHP/20017860 dated 03/06/2026 Procurement of Transport Air Compressor Motor, 455kW 3f IM,6600 V AC RPM:1491 at GATP at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.
For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 03/06/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GATP-51/26, DPR/Pb. : 1079/12/2026-27/11941

KERA KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA)
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
The Project Director, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project (The World Bank Project ID No.: P178254) invites proposals for the following online tenders from eligible consultants:
1.Tender ID: 2026_KERA_853231_1
Consulting services: Technical Service Agency support for developing 50 Productive Alliances - Central Kerala
Last date of submission of Proposal is 3rd July, 2026, 4:00 PM
The tender Document can be downloaded from e-tender Kerala portal starting from 4th June, 2026, 10:00 AM.
2.Tender ID: 2026_KERA_853232_1
Consulting services: Technical Service Agency support for developing 50 Productive Alliances - Southern Kerala
Last date of submission of Proposal is 3rd July, 2026, 4:00 PM
The tender Document can be downloaded from e-tender Kerala portal starting from 4th June, 2026, 10:00 AM

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Chit Fund Division, MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru- 560 052. Phone : 080-22264021-25
e-mail: msil.chitfund@msilonline.com
No: MSIL/CF/02/2026-27/Call-3 Dated: 03.06.2026
SHORT-TERM E-TENDER
(through e-portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
Proposals are invited from eligible Chartered Accountant Firms for appointment to Provide Financial Review and Accounting Services for Chit Fund Division for a period of One Year. Detailed Tender document containing scope of work, eligibility criteria, and terms & conditions can be downloaded from e-portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Manual applications shall not be accepted.
The last date for submission of proposals is 11th June 2026 before 3:30 P.M. The Company reserves the right to amend or modify the eligibility criteria as deemed fit to suit its requirement.
Sd/-
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CHIT FUND)

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 2			
1.	Repair of Existing Paver Block around the various parks in Sector 46 B & C, Chandigarh. Est. Cost : Rs. 60.91 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 1,21,825/- Time Limit : 03 Months	03.06.2026 To 10.06.2026 upto 12.00 noon	10.06.2026 at 12.00 noon

Note:- All other terms and conditions and complete DNIT are uploaded on website https://etenders.chd.nic.in
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Roads Division No.2, Room No.304, M.C. Chandigarh

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: SG-SWR-PROJ UBL-KAVACH-RM Dated: 29.05.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Proposed Work for Relay Room Modifications / Extensions or New Constructions for Kavach Equipment in Londa - Hubballi - Arsikere Section.	Rs. 4,58,75,786.72

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:30 Hrs. on 25.06.2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer Projects/Hubballi
PUB/182/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services
South Western Railway - SWR SWRHQRLY SWR(AR)HQ sw_railways

MUMBAI PORT AUTHORITY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No.E.12/2026 - Consultancy Services for Carrying out a Detailed Project Report (DPR) study for the Development of the International Convention Centre and supporting Commercial area on the lands of MbPA, Mumbai.
The subject tender invited under the Limited Tender category is now also published in the Open Tender category. Eligible bidders are requested to quote for the Open Tender. The replies to Pre-Bid Queries of the meeting held on 10.03.2026, attached as annexures, should be read in conjunction with the tender document. Details are available on MbPA's website http//www.mumbaiport.gov.in and http//www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. The Due Date of the tender is 22.06.2026.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Mumbai Port Authority

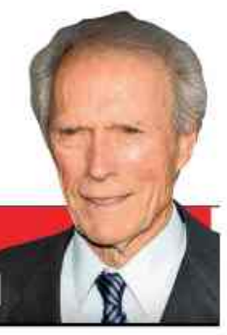
TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

IF WE DON'T END WAR,
WAR WILL END US
— H G WELLS

MARTIN SCORSESE PARTNERS WITH AI FIRM TO CREATE STORYBOARDS: 'CINEMA IS A YOUNG MEDIUM, WE'VE TO BE OPEN TO HOW IT CAN EVOLVE'

CLINT EASTWOOD, WHO TURNED 96 LAST SUNDAY, HAS RETIRED FROM ACTING AND DIRECTING, CONFIRMS SON



Iran hits Kuwait's main airport as ceasefire put to test again

IRGC Acknowledges Attack, Kuwait Expels 2 Iranian Diplomats

Dubai: Kuwait briefly shut its main airport on Wednesday after Iranian drones heavily damaged a passenger terminal, killed one person and wounded dozens — the latest in back-and-forth attacks by Iran and the US that test a fragile ceasefire. The strike reinforced the risks to residents and travellers in Gulf countries that had considered themselves relative havens before the war, now in its fourth month.

A spokesperson for Kuwait's defence ministry, Brigadier General Saud Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi, said "a number of hostile drones" targeted a passenger building at Kuwait International Airport. It had opened only Monday after a months-long closure because of the war.

India's embassy said the person killed was an Indian national. Authorities said 63 were wounded, including passengers and workers, and some suffered serious injuries. Kuwait's defence ministry said it destroyed over a dozen missiles and a similar number of drones from Iran.

The airport partially reopened later, with Kuwait Airways flights resuming at a different terminal, according to civil aviation authorities. No other flights were operating. The foreign ministry said Kuwait will "neither accept nor tolerate" the attacks and was kicking out two Iranian diplomats. Such expulsions are an established means of communicating international ire.

The US military said two Iranian missiles fell apart en route to Kuwait and that it "downed multiple drones" targeting American forces in the country. The military also said US and Bahraini forces intercepted missiles aimed at the Gulf kingdom, home to the US navy's 5th fleet. Bahrain's defence ministry said its military intercepted and destroyed three missiles and a number of drones fired by Iran. The US military said it launched strikes on an Iranian military ground control station on Qeshm Island. Iran's foreign ministry condemned the US strikes on the island, where it said a telecommunications tower was struck. It called them "acts of aggression" that it said violated the ceasefire.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard acknowledged in a statement that it targeted the headquarters of the 5th Fleet and US military facilities in another country, but did not name Kuwait. Both the US and Iran said they were retaliating for earlier attacks or attempted strikes. AP

Reuters

Kuwait International Airport after strikes

Reuters

Lebanon said fresh Israeli strikes on Wednesday killed at least nine people in the country's south, while another raid hit a car near Beirut. The Israeli military, meanwhile, said it intercepted a 'hostile aircraft' and two projectiles from Lebanon

MEA confirms Indian killed in Iran's strike

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

An Indian national was killed and several others injured in an Iranian drone strike on Kuwait international airport Wednesday. Indian govt condemned the attack, confirming the death of the Indian national and injuries to others. Ministry of external affairs said that since the onset of conflict in West Asia, India has strongly called for civilian population and infrastructure not being targeted.

"We again call upon parties to cease such attacks. We offer our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. Our Embassy is extending all possible assistance to those injured. We remain in close contact with local authorities for the welfare of Indian nationals," said the ministry, adding that Indian missions and posts across the region are on alert and continue to proactively support Indian community.

Kuwait, which described the attack as criminal Iranian aggression, suspended air traffic on Wednesday after the strikes hit Terminal One, causing casualties and damage to airport facilities, directorate general of civil aviation spokesperson Abdullah Al-Rajhi was quoted as saying by state-run KUNA news agency.

Embassy of India in Kuwait said it is "closely coordinating" with Kuwaiti authorities to extend all possible support and assistance to the bereaved family as well as those injured.

Hadi's bro blames BNP, interim govt for murder, warns PM of similar fate

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: PM **Tarique Rahman** "you could be assassinated like my brother" if those, including from BNP, involved in the crime are not brought to justice, said Sharif Omar Hadi, brother of Inquilab Mancha spokesperson Osman Hadi, whose killing led to massive mob violence across Bangladesh.

"Several advisers of the (former Muhammad Yunus-led) interim govt and several MPs and ministers associated with BNP govt are directly involved in Osman's murder," said Omar — who on contractual-appointment is second secretary at Bangladesh's assistant high commission in Birmingham. "If justice is not served for Osman's murder, these same people may one day kill you (PM Tarique) as well, just as your father, President Ziaur Rahman, was assassinated," he said.

Omar, after his brother's death, had alleged that a section within the then Yunus-led administration had planned the murder to derail the Feb general elections, a reference not only to the interim govt's advisers but also to members of Bangladesh's largest Islamist political party, now in opposition, Jamaat-e-Islami.

Bangladeshi nationals Faisal Karim Masud and Alamgir Hossain were apprehended from West Bengal for allegedly killing Osman. State minister for foreign affairs Shama Obaed Islam on Wednesday said Dhaka is working with India to bring back Osman's killers.

Anthropic grants India access to restricted AI model 'Mythos'

Move Significant As New Delhi Only Major Non-US Ally Included In Group

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In the rapidly escalating global race to harness artificial intelligence for cyberwarfare and cyberdefence, India finds itself in an unusually exclusive club.

Anthropic, the US artificial intelligence company behind Claude AI, this week expanded access to its highly restricted cybersecurity model, Mythos, to roughly 150 organisations across more than 15 countries, including India, under an initiative called Project Glasswing. India's inclusion is notable because the list is otherwise dominated by Washington's closest security partners and allies, with China a conspicuously absentee.

Project Glasswing is Anthropic's attempt to address what it believes is a looming cybersecurity crisis. The company says Mythos has reached a level of coding and vulnerability-discovery capability that surpasses almost all human security researchers. In testing, the model reportedly uncovered thousands of serious software vulnerabilities across major operating systems and browsers, helping partners identify and patch flaws before malicious actors can exploit them.

Anthropic has been unusually cautious with Mythos. Unlike consumer AI products released to millions of users, Mythos remains gated because the same capability that can find security weaknesses can also potentially be used to exploit them. British and American security researchers have warned that frontier AI systems are approaching the point where they could significantly accelerate sophisticated cyberattacks.

Reuters

Anthropic expanded access to Mythos, to roughly 150 organisations across more than 15 countries

That explains why access is limited largely to govts, critical infrastructure operators, major technology companies, financial institutions and cybersecurity agencies. Participants are expected not merely to use Mythos, but to help test it, identify risks and improve defences.

For India, the invitation carries strategic significance. New Delhi is not a treaty ally of Washington, yet it is the only major non-allied power included in the current expansion. Other countries that have access to Mythos include France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Sweden, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.

The decision to include India likely reflects a combination of geopolitical and commercial realities. First, India has become one of the world's largest pools of software talent and one of the fastest-growing markets for AI adoption. Second, India's digital infrastructure, from banking and payments to telecom and public digital platforms, has become so extensive that vulnerabilities discovered in Indian systems can provide valuable insights into securing software.

China's exclusion is less mysterious. Project Glasswing is fundamentally a security initiative, and Mythos is designed to discover software vulnerabilities at scale, making it a technology with obvious national-security implications. At a time of intensifying US-China technological rivalry, US lawmakers like Senator Chris Coons ensured there was no chance Washington would allow such capabilities to Chinese institutions.

India also enjoys another advantage inside Anthropic itself. The company has a significant Indian presence in its leadership and engineering ranks, including CTO Rahul Patil. Anthropic has also opened a global office in Bengaluru, only the second after Tokyo, tapping local talent to build what it describes as "sovereign" AI infrastructure. If Mythos can identify vulnerabilities before hostile actors do, Indian organisations such as CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team, govt agency for cybersecurity coordination) and firms such as TCS and Infosys may gain a rare defensive head start in a world where AI is rapidly becoming both the locksmith and lockpick of cyberspace.

Protests in UK over handcuffed student's death

Naomi Canton

London: Violence erupted in the port city of Southampton on England's south coast after police released bodycam footage showing officers handcuffing fatally wounded university student Henry Nowak moments before his death from a British Indian Sikh's kirpan attack last year, fuelling protests over allegations of two-tier policing and prompting a review of UK's anti-racism guidance.

Eleven police officers and a police dog were wounded Tuesday night as demonstrators clashed with riot police, hurling bricks, bottles and wheelie bins. Homes and vehicles were damaged as crowds shouted "Racist police, off our streets" and carried signs reading "Henry's blood is on your hands". Unrest followed the release on Monday of footage from Hampshire police showing officers placing 18-year-old Nowak in handcuffs and reading him his rights after he was stabbed by Vickrum Digwa, 23, with a Sikh ceremonial dagger on Dec 4, 2025.

Critics said officers chose to believe Digwa's account that Nowak had pulled off his turban, despite Nowak repeatedly telling police, "I can't breathe" and "I have been stabbed". Footage was released hours after Digwa was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 21 years for killing Nowak. Opposition lawmakers have blamed anti-racism guidance issued last year by National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), along with Hampshire police's anti-racism action plan, for officers' actions during the confrontation. NPCC said its guidance is under review following backlash.

On Tuesday, Digwa appeared in court alongside his brother Gurpreet Digwa, 27, and father Moga Singh, 52. All three face six counts of possessing offensive weapons. Court proceedings drew attention to allegations made by Southampton's Gurdwara Khalsa Darbar in 2023 that Digwa stole about £1,000 worth of shaster knives from the temple. Digwa was banned from the gurdwara but was never charged. Britain's Sikh community heads have condemned Digwa's actions and sought to distance the faith from the killing.

AFP

A demonstrator clashes with police in Southampton on Tuesday. A footage of officers handcuffing a wounded university student, Henry Nowak, moments before his death from a Sikh man's kirpan attack last year has fuelled protests over allegations of two-tier policing

Indian run over in UK by driver charged with DUI

Family Awaits Body, Ex-Boss Runs Fundraiser For Repatriation

Naomi Canton and Zeeshan Jawed | TNN

Anisha Chakraborty texted her brother Raktim in the US from Birmingham last Friday to say she had good news to share. The 28-year-old from Kolkata's Mukundapur had been job-hunting after completing her master's with distinction at Aston University and had just made it to the final round of an interview.

Raktim, who is based in Arkansas, replied to his sister on Saturday morning. The text wasn't delivered. He would hear later that Anisha had been run over by a black Audi RSQ8 on Dartmouth Middleway in Birmingham city centre, a short walk from her accommodation, just after 2am local time.

Anisha

Anisha had gone out on Friday night to a pub with former university friends. She and a friend walked back together before splitting midway. She was alone and almost home when the car hit her. Four days later, Anisha's Indian-origin boss at the restaurant where she had been working part-time is running a GoFundMe campaign to raise money to cover the cost of repatriating her body to Kolkata. Till late Wednesday, crowdfunding contributions totalled over £16,000 (Rs 20.5 lakh). In Kolkata, Anisha and Raktim's father Ramkrishna Prasad Chakraborty said every moment of waiting for his daughter's body to arrive was tortuous.

"She was so excited about the job. She was looking forward to a new phase in her life," he said. "My wife hasn't spoken to anyone since getting the news."

West Midlands Ambulance Service in the UK said it received multiple 999 calls at 2.17am Saturday, reporting a collision between a car and a pedestrian. Two ambulances, two paramedic officers and a MERIT trauma team responded. Anisha was dead by then. A 22-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and driving under the influence of drugs. Police told **TOI** Wednesday that he had received bail with conditions while the investigation continues.

The Chakraborty family had been in regular contact with Anisha until Friday. "After that, there was no contact. Saturday morning, one of her friends informed us that she had met with an accident," her father said. Raktim told **TOI** hat he had lost not just a sister but someone he treated like a daughter, being eight years older. "We had planned a video call during the weekend that never happened," Raktim said. Anisha had moved to the UK in Sept 2024 to pursue a master's in international business.

DRONES HIT ST. PETERSBURG

AP Photo/undefined

Ukrainian long-range drones struck an oil terminal in St. Petersburg and set it ablaze, President Zelensky said on Wednesday, sending smoke billowing over the city. The drones flew more than 1,000km to hit the oil terminal, Zelensky said, a day after Moscow launched a major drone and missile attack on Ukrainian cities, killing 23 people and injuring 151 others. Russian authorities said only that the Ukrainian drones targeted St. Petersburg's infrastructure, without providing details. The city's airport briefly suspended flights and authorities cut off mobile internet services. The strikes are an embarrassment for Putin, weeks after he pruned back Victory Day parade in Moscow because of fears of Ukrainian drone attacks. Russia is hosting the economic forum in St. Petersburg. The gathering is sometimes called 'Russia's Davos'. AP

Two scientists bring deactivated mpox virus to US, charged

Detroit: Two scientists at an American govt lab were charged with smuggling vials of deactivated mpox virus into the country from Africa and lying about it during interviews with investigators at a Michigan airport, authorities said Tuesday.

A criminal complaint was unsealed in federal court in Detroit against Vincent Munster, who is chief of the virus ecology section at Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Montana, and Claude Kwe, who works with him.

Munster "adamantly denied" returning to the US with biological materials or samples, the FBI said in a court filing. But tests revealed that Munster and Kwe were travelling with vials of deactivated mpox, the FBI said, yet they had failed to declare them. AP

Sightings of people in and out of NYC sewers baffle residents, investigation on

New York: Mole people? Crocodile catchers? Mario brothers? A series of bizarre sightings of people popping in and out of New York City's subterranean sewer system has the city wondering what exactly is going on, with police now probing the underground mystery. Security cameras have recorded three nighttime instances where groups of people entered or exited sewer tunnels via maintenance holes on streets in Brooklyn and Queens.

In one video, taken early Friday morning in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, a group of roughly seven people were recorded popping out of a maintenance hole in the middle of an intersection, in full view of passing cars. Some wore headlamps and carried what appeared to be shovels and other tools. One narrowly missed getting run over by a vehicle as they pulled themselves out of the ground.

A screen grab of surveillance footage shows people entering sewer tunnels in New York City

In another video, a group of about seven people could be seen emerging from a maintenance hole around 2am on a quiet street in Brooklyn's Gravesend neighbourhood. They made their way to a couple of parked cars and pulled out fresh clothes to change into. Police say the group entered the sewers about 11pm, meaning they could have been underground for three hours.

On May 5, three people dressed in waterproof hip waders and other protective gear pried open a maintenance hole cover and descended into the sewer on a street in Queens. Aki Jakupovic, the owner of an auto detailing shop, said his shop's surveillance cameras recorded that group of sewer spelunkers.

The city's department of environmental protection said it inspected the sewers at both Brooklyn locations and verified the sewer infrastructure wasn't damaged. The incident in Queens is still under investigation, the agency said.

Police said they don't believe there's any threat to public safety after conducting a thorough sweep of the areas. There have been no reports of injuries and no arrests. AP

DAILY PLANET

AP

NATURE'S FURY: The on-and-off eruption of Hawaii's Kilauea volcano broke a record Monday with the number of periods it has produced fountains of lava since it began erupting in Dec 2024, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said. Monday marked 48 fountaining episodes, setting a record for any one eruption on Kilauea. An eruption during the 1980s, in which 47 lava fountaining episodes occurred over about 3.5 years occurred in a more remote area

Scott Pelley fired from '60 Minutes' at CBS News

CBS News fired longtime "60 Minutes" correspondent Scott Pelley on Tuesday, a day after he reportedly said editor-in-chief Bari Weiss was "murdering the show" and accused its new producer of having "slender qualifications" for the job. The move deepened the turmoil at the nation's most influential TV news programme, days after a leadership overhaul. Pelley, 68, criticised management on Monday during a fiery staff meeting with Nick Bilton, the programme's new executive producer installed by Weiss last week, according to a detailed report on the Status website. In a termination notice obtained on Tuesday night by AP, Bilton accused Pelley of carrying out an "ambush" against him. Pelley said in a statement that "60 Minutes" has lost its DNA under new management. He accused them of asking him to "inject falsehoods and bias" into his work, without sharing specific details. "60 Minutes" first aired in 1968 and is the longest-running prime-time show in TV history. Its investigative journalism and probing interviews have given it the reputation of uncompromising journalism — precisely the trait that Pelley said he feared was under assault. Pelley started working for CBS in 1989. He has won 51 Emmy Awards, according to his CBS bio. ap

German director pulls 1975 film over nude scene

German director Wim Wenders said Wednesday he was withdrawing his 1975 film "Wrong Move" after actress Nastassja Kinski complained about a scene in which she appeared almost nude when she was only 13.

How Cubans keep going, despite American pressure and fuel blockade

Havana: Felicia de la Caridad Alvarez, a resident of Old Havana, knows a thing or two about survival. The 64-year-old former hospital custodian, blind in one eye, suffers from hypertension and diabetes. She rarely enjoys running water or electricity. The food in her refrigerator has spoiled. Even her TV is broken, leaving her unable to discern who, exactly, is to blame for her woes.

Millions of Cubans face a similar plight. Cuba's already inefficient state-run economy — long plagued by shortages — has descended in recent months into a full-blown crisis in the wake of hardened sanctions and a fuel blockade by President Trump.

Despite Trump's prediction in early Jan that Cuba was "ready to fall" and despite severely rationed power, a crumbling health service and the decimation of its crucial tourism industry, Cubans keep on going and govt is still in charge.

In part, that rests on years of practice. Cuba's govt has long taught people like Alvarez to "resistir," a central tenet of its nearly seven-decade-old communist revolution. "Resistir" is shorthand for overcoming hardship in the face of seemingly insurmountable adversity. "In order to survive, I have to keep fighting," Alvarez said. "What choice do I have?"

Reuters

People buy produce and pre-owned clothes at a open air market in Alamar

Farmers have kept agricultural markets well-stocked throughout Havana, scrounging diesel on the black market or training oxen to replace tractors. The streets are swarming with electric tricycles that double as taxis and have replaced gasoline-powered ones. Solar panels and power banks now light homes and businesses.

Cuba's capacity to "resist" appears to be trying the patience of Washington. That is creating a test of wills, said Bert Hoffmann, a German academic who has studied Cuban politics for 30 years. "Living conditions have deteriorated but the political impact is far less clear," said Hoffmann, who visited Cuba earlier this year.

Omayra Blanca, a 65-year-old housewife who lives on the seventh floor of a building in Havana remains optimistic. Since the elevator quit working two years ago, she only goes downstairs once or twice a week. "We are fighters. With the little that we have, we survive," Blanca said. "Everyone is just adapting to the times."

Not everyone shares her optimism. Doctors are fleeing their profession as hospital supplies dry up, leaving wards understaffed. Medicine is scarce and a plunge in the peso has left many struggling to put food on the table. Most of the country has just a few hours of power a day.

Despite govt's general intolerance for uprisings, protests have broken out across Havana in recent weeks as blackouts have grown to span as much as 18 hours a day. Govt has selectively flipped the "on" switch in certain neighbourhoods, occasionally helping to defuse protests, but both blackouts and protests have increased, suggesting "resistance" has limits, said Cuba-based sociologist Luis Emilio Aybar. REUTERS

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

SpaceX targets record $75 billion raise at IPO price of $135 per share

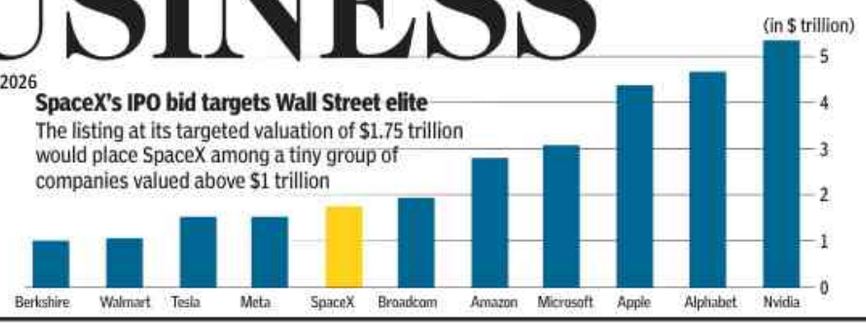
Elon Musk's rocket and satellite communications company SpaceX plans to sell 555.6 million shares. It is aiming for a valuation of about $1.75 trillion. The IPO is expected to be structured as an all-primary offering, meaning all proceeds would go to the company

Source: Reuters

SpaceX revenue last fiscal year was far smaller than Big Tech cos

SpaceX's IPO bid targets Wall Street elite

The listing at its targeted valuation of $1.75 trillion would place SpaceX among a tiny group of companies valued above $1 trillion



The listing leads a wave of high-profile private companies preparing to test public markets after years of muted large-cap IPO activity, with SpaceX expected to be followed by artificial intelligence giants OpenAI and Anthropic

NHPC OFS fully subscribed; govt garners ₹4,300 cr

New Delhi: The offer for sale for NHPC was fully subscribed on the final day on Wednesday, helping govt mobilise about Rs 4,300 crore from stake dilution. Against the OFS size of about 60.3 crore shares, cumulative bids of 151.3 crore were received. Govt on Monday announced it would sell up to 6% stake in NHPC via OFS at a floor price of Rs 71 per share. The OFS includes a base offer of 3% of govt's equity in NHPC and an additional 3% green shoe option. NHPC shares closed at Rs 75.1, up 3.9% on BSE. AGENCIES

Gold drops ₹1.8k/10gm amid weak global cues

New Delhi: Gold prices declined by Rs 1,850 to about Rs 1.6 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid weakness in global markets and uncertainty over the US-Iran ceasefire agreement. Silver prices also slumped by about Rs 1,500, or 0.6%, to Rs 2.7 lakh per kilogram. AGENCIES

FirstClub raises $55mn, valued at $255mn

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Bengaluru: Quick commerce startup FirstClub has raised $55 million (about Rs 512 crore) in a funding round led by Peak XV and Sofina, with participation from existing investors Accel, RTP Global and Paramark. The round values the Bengaluru-based company at $255 million (about Rs 2,300 crore).

The funding comes less than a year after the company raised its Series A round, underscoring investor interest despite a challenging funding environment for startups.

Founded about 18 months ago, FirstClub has positioned itself as a quality-first quick commerce platform rather than competing solely on delivery speed. "We were very clear from day one that we did not want to build one more app delivering products in five or ten minutes. Quality had to be the single biggest cornerstone of the platform," said **Ayyappan R**, founder of FirstClub. The company delivers groceries and fresh produce in under 30 minutes and differentiates itself through stringent quality controls, including lab testing and publishing quality reports for consumers.

Tech stocks slide on AI fears, oil gives D-Street a headache

Brent Crude Approaches $100/Bbl | Rupee Down 43p Against $

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

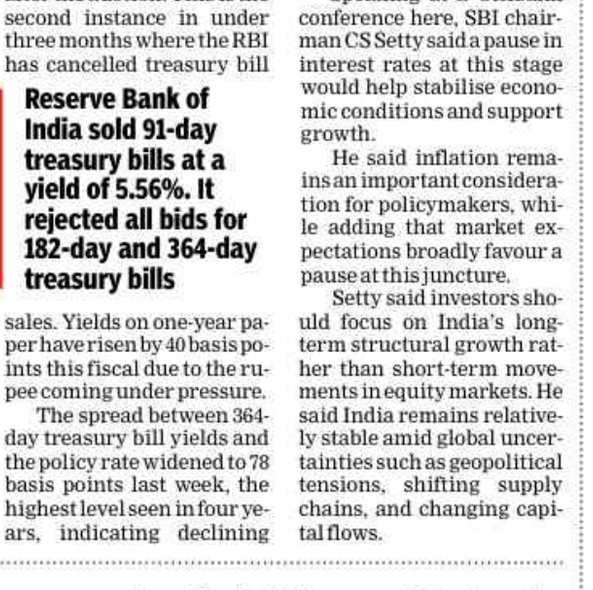
Mumbai: Fresh flare ups in the Persian Gulf region on Wednesday pushed up crude prices to near the $100 per barrel level and sank the rupee by around 50 paise in intra-day trades. These factors combined to pull the sensex down by over 1,100 points by mid-session, before some buying emerged at lower levels. At close, with demand for banking and telecom stocks, the index was 304 points down at 74,346 points.

Most IT stocks crashed as fresh fears related to the impact of AI-led technology disrupting established business models of software services companies surfaced.

According to Vinod Nair of Geojit Investments, domestic markets witnessed a swift recovery from initial losses despite escalating Iran–US tensions. "The rebound was primarily driven by a sharp recovery in banking stocks, while IT stocks emerged as the biggest laggards due to profit booking and persistent global uncertainties. Expectations of supportive policy measures to boost foreign investments aided sentiment."

However, Nair said investors remained cautious ahead of the upcoming RBI policy decision and GDP data, both slotted for Friday. They are expected to provide further clarity on growth challenges amid the risk of inflationary pressures stemming from geopolitical tensions. The day's selling on Dalal Street was again led by foreign funds with the net outflow from stocks at Rs 5,617 crore, BSE data showed. In contrast, domestic funds were net buyers at Rs 5,741 crore.

NO ROOM FOR COMFORT



Wednesday's session also left investors poorer by about Rs 1.6 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 461.1 lakh crore, exchange data showed. IT stocks were at the forefront of the selling. Sector leader TCS crashed 8.4% while Tech Mahindra lost 6.2%, HCL Tech 5.3% and Infosys closed 3.8% down. As a result, the BSE's IT index closed 5% lower. Banking stocks showed smart gains with SBI up 1.4% and ICICI Bank up 1.3%, while BSE's banking index closed 0.9% up. In the forex market, after the initial slide, the rupee recovered some ground in late trades and closed 43 paise weaker at 95.7 per dollar. In late trades, Brent crude was up nearly 2% at $97.7/barrel. Earlier in the day, it touched the $99 mark. In the international bullion market, gold was down 1.2% at $4,467/ounce while silver was trading 2.7% lower.

Exporters keep tabs on USTR probe, trade talks

Expect Advantage Over Rivals, Say India Doesn't Allow Goods Using Forced Labour

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Indian exporters are keeping close tabs on the US Trade Representative's investigations and the talks for a bilateral trade deal, which they expect will put them at an advantage compared to some of their rivals from other countries.

While they are not too worried with the latest proposal to impose 12.5% tariffs on 54 countries, what bothers them is the same levy on China.

But, most are questioning the findings and arguing that India is not a country that allows goods using forced labour. "India has a robust legal framework governing labour standards and committed to responsible business practices. Any concern can be addressed through constructive dialogue. Since India and the US are actively engaged in BTA negotiations, we are confident both sides will work together to strengthen trade ties and arrive at a mutually beneficial outcome," said Ajai Sahay, director general, Fieo.

"India's footwear and leather sector is not a forced-labour risk, it is a formal, employment-intensive, women-inclusive and globally audited manufacturing sector. Any additional US tariff will punish compliant Indian MSMEs and workers, while weakening the China+1 sourcing opportunity that American buyers themselves are seeking," added Puran Dawar, chairman of Dawar Group, an Agra-based leather goods exporter.

There is also talk of some exporters front-loading shipments to ensure that goods reach the US before the current 10% regime ends. "With the current longer route that ships have to take there is a 10-15-day window available," said an industry source.

For most Indian businesses, the going has been good since the US Supreme Court struck down the reciprocal tariffs in late Feb and a 10% uniform additional levy kicked in for all countries.

"We are seeing good demand from the US as there is a level-playing field. If the new tariffs are across the board, we do not have much to worry about as we can manage," said a leading garment player.

Unlike last year, when they had to deal with heft discounts to keep their business going, companies said, American buyers are absorbing the higher cost at the moment, which is being passed on to buyers. "Demand is not hit because of the higher prices," added another garment exporter.

While a bilateral trade deal is seen to be positive, most want govt to ensure comparative advantage over China, Vietnam and Bangladesh, at least when it comes to traditional sectors such as textiles and footwear.

Some Exporters Seen 'Front-Loading'

RBI rejects bids for treasury bills, move signals lower rates

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The RBI rejected all bids for 182-day and 364-day treasury bills while accepting only 91-day bills at auction on Wednesday, signalling its discomfort with rising short-term yields ahead of the monetary policy decision due Friday.

The RBI sold 91-day treasury bills at a yield of 5.56%. The central bank typically rejects bids when it finds yields too high, and the move is seen as a signal that it wants interest rates to soften.

The decision comes as the MPC began its meeting to decide on interest rates, with the outcome scheduled for Friday and expectations that rates will be held.

Yields on govt bonds fell after the auction. This is the second instance in under three months where the RBI has cancelled treasury bill sales. Yields on one-year paper have risen by 40 basis points this fiscal due to the rupee coming under pressure.

Reserve Bank of India sold 91-day treasury bills at a yield of 5.56%. It rejected all bids for 182-day and 364-day treasury bills

The spread between 364-day treasury bill yields and the policy rate widened to 78 basis points last week, the highest level seen in four years, indicating declining market appetite.

Speaking at a Citibank conference here, SBI chairman CS Setty said a pause in interest rates at this stage would help stabilise economic conditions and support growth.

He said inflation remains an important consideration for policymakers, while adding that market expectations broadly favour a pause at this juncture.

Setty said investors should focus on India's long-term structural growth rather than short-term movements in equity markets. He said India remains relatively stable amid global uncertainties such as geopolitical tensions, shifting supply chains, and changing capital flows.

RBI dy guv: Eco resilient amid uncertainties

Mumbai: India's economic activity has demonstrated resilience, fuelled by the growth of the industrial and services sectors, broad-based demand, and improving corporate performance, despite geopolitical uncertainties, according to Reserve Bank deputy governor Swaminathan J.

In a speech at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University, on Monday, the deputy governor also said inflation is within the RBI's tolerance band, and external vulnerabilities remain manageable.

"We meet at a time when the global policy conversation is again crowded with large themes: geopolitics, climate change, artificial intelligence, technological disruption and the reordering of supply chains," Swaminathan said. AGENCIES

Wipro CEO pay declines 14.5% to ₹49.2 cr in FY26

Bengaluru: Wipro CEO and managing director **Srini Pallia**'s compensation fell 14.5% to $5.3 million (Rs 49.2 crore) in FY26 from $6.2 million a year earlier, according to the company's annual report.

Pallia's remuneration included $1.6 million in salary and allowances, $1 million in commission and variable pay, $2.4 million in other benefits, and $108,464 in long-term compensation.

In comparison, Infosys CEO Salil Parekh's compensation rose 2.5% to Rs 82.5 crore in FY26, while TCS CEO K. Krithivasan earned Rs 28 crore during the year, marking a 6.3% increase from the previous fiscal year. Wipro chairman Rishad Premji's compensation declined 51% to $773,213 in FY26 from $1.6 million in the previous fiscal. No stock options were granted to Premji during the year. Employee compensation costs fell by Rs 590 crore in FY26 compared with FY25, reflecting a lower headcount and reduced per-employee costs, partly offset by salary increases and promotions. TNN

Sebi bans Rajesh Exports' CMD for fin irregularities

Mumbai: Sebi on Wednesday banned Rajesh Mehta, CMD of Rajesh Exports from dealing in the shares of the company till further orders. In its interim order, Sebi also directed Rajesh Exports to cooperate with the regulator's investigating officer and forensic auditors to look into the books of the company. Sebi's initial investigations showed that the company had, over several years starting FY21, manipulated its books of accounts, especially its revenues from overseas subsidiaries, to inflate its revenues. The order said that 97%-99% of the company's revenue was "inflated, egregious and unheard of." The order further noted that the company had misrepresented approximately Rs 15.2 lakh crore, representing 99.8% of its revenues which are attributed to subsidiaries during FY21 to FY25. The company, in FY23 had also announced that it had invested Rs 1,035 crore in gold mines in Africa. However, neither any such investment was reflected in the standalone financial statements of Rajesh Exports for FY2023, nor in the standalone financial statements of any of the company's subsidiaries. TNN

UPI links up with Cambodia's KHQR

Mumbai: National Payments Corporation of India's UPI has been linked with Cambodia's KHQR, enabling cross-border QR merchant payments under an RBI-backed NPCI International-Acleda tie-up. Indian travellers can now pay 45 lakh Cambodian merchants via UPI. The next phase will enable Cambodians to pay in India. TNN

figure it out

$46mn

worth of shares in the largest ETF tracking US software stocks, were bought on Monday by retail investors in their biggest single-day buy in on record

Source: Reuters

Startup companies race to build physical AI datasets

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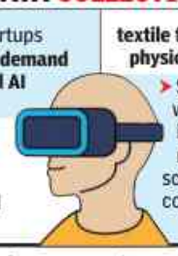
BURGEONING DATA COLLECTION STARTUPS

- Several Indian startups have cropped up as **demand for building Physical AI explodes**
- Point of view video captured, **partnering with gig platforms and small textile factories to mimic physics-real world models**
- Startups say this would **help India train its own competitive models in future**, while sceptics dismiss it as a cost-arbitrage model



Chennai: Home services startup Pronto's admission last week that it was piloting in-home video recordings to train physical AI systems shines a light on a fast-growing and loosely regulated industry of AI data capture and labelling for the global robotics supply chain.

Pronto is not alone. Startups such as Human Archive, Humyn Labs, Egolab AI and Neocambrian are collecting what is called egocentric data or first-person video captured through wearables or head-mounted cameras. They partner with cloud kitchens, hotels, home services platforms, small textile and garment factories, and warehouse operators to record everyday tasks from cooking meals and washing dishes to stitching garments, assembling components and sorting inventory. In some cases, startups have built dedicated 'data factories' with motion-tracking rigs.

"Typical clients are robotics, vision-language-action model and world model companies," said Abhinav Kukreja, founder of Neocambrian AI, which raised funds from angels, including Dalmia Family Office Trust. "There is no equivalent repository of physical behaviour on the internet. Robots need to learn from messy homes, crowded factories, small shops and repair stations, which India offers. When done right, it can become an additional source of paid work for many workers and households, and we compensate both environment owners and data collectors," he said.

This data trains world models and physical AI systems, teaching robots to navigate and act in messy, unstructured environments and smart glasses for object recognition. One industry insider said there is significant demand from the defence industry, particularly for autonomous drone applications. The practice also raises questions about privacy, legality and compensation as in some cases videos are recorded without pay and consent from the workers. **TOI** learnt that some factories have paused such pilots after the recent backlash.

Manish Agarwal, co-founder of Humyn Labs, which works with leading frontier labs, said demand is growing from robotics OEMs, software makers and enterprises. "We collect and convert this into episodic strings for robot memory, which helps build low to mid-level agentic capabilities including physical action, voice, sight and mobility," he said. "We are using verified networks of workers across 16 countries as robots cannot be trained only in Indian environments. For European domestic robotics to navigate better, we need training data similar to that environment," he added.

Startups argue that this is India's entry into the global AI value chain, and that working with frontier labs could help the country train competitive models of its own in the future. But sceptics see a familiar cost-arbitrage play. Madhukar Yarra, CEO of Bengaluru BPO NextWealth, which annotates these videos, called it a flash in the pan.

Much of the data is collected through unorganised gig work, he said.

Sangeeta Gupta, SVP at Nasscom, said physical AI data could diversify India's AI services beyond traditional data labelling. "But issues around informed consent, anonymisation, worker awareness and ethical use will require continued industry responsibility and evolving safeguards," she said.

Interest in India strong despite volatility: BoA chief

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Mumbai: Interest in India remains undiminished despite near-term volatility, according to Vikram Sahu, India CEO and country executive at Bank of America.

"Corporate interest remains strong and unchanged in its conviction," Sahu said, adding that strategic investors continue to take a long-term view of India, drawn by its scale, growth prospects and governance framework.

Investor sentiment is also showing signs of improvement. "Participation at our flagship 2026 India conference increased by 30% this year," Sahu said, highlighting "a growing willingness to evaluate whether current levels offer a more compelling entry point than what we saw 18 to 24 months ago." On the lack of interest from foreign investors, Sahu said, "Ultimately, capital responds to fundamentals," adding that as regulatory friction reduces and business conditions improve, "foreign investment will follow in a more durable and sustained manner."

> About 18 months ago, India was trading at a significant premium to its historical averages, which set a very high bar for expectations. When you combine elevated valuations with a more uncertain macro backdrop, it is only natural for investors to step back, recalibrate, and wait for more attractive entry points
>
> —**Vikram Sahu** | INDIA CEO & COUNTRY EXECUTIVE, BANK OF AMERICA

Sahu attributed the decline in foreign institutional investor participation, now at its lowest level in over a decade, initially to elevated valuations. "About 18 months ago, India was trading at a significant premium to its historical averages, which set a very high bar for expectations," he said. This was compounded by external uncertainties, including trade negotiations with the US, the West Asia conflict affecting energy markets, and the broader implications of artificial intelligence on India's growth narrative. "When you combine elevated valuations with a more uncertain macro backdrop, it is only natural for investors to step back, recalibrate, and wait for more attractive entry points," he said, adding that such cycles are not unusual and tend to self-correct.

Sahu said trade-related concerns have moderated with multiple agreements, including a framework with the US, while trade flows have remained resilient. However, he cautioned that West Asia continues to be a key source of uncertainty. "A swift resolution would remove a meaningful overhang, while a prolonged situation would remain a headwind, though one that is not unique to India," he said.

From a banking perspective, Sahu sees a wide opportunity set, particularly in manufacturing, which currently accounts for about 15% of GDP against a target of 25%. "Some view that gap as a constraint; I see it as clear runway for growth," he said. He cited electronics manufacturing as an example.

On valuations, Sahu said foreign investors are returning selectively, focusing on companies with durable competitive advantages, earnings visibility and strong governance. For a broader shift, he identified two triggers: "First, greater clarity on the situation in West Asia. Second, a definitive end to the earnings downgrade cycle."

He added, "We are moving closer on the latter, but we are not fully through it yet," while noting that capital markets activity remains robust, with IPO demand supported by domestic flows alongside FII participation.

Emids bets big on India GCC playbook

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Bengaluru: Digital healthcare services firm Emids is doubling down on the global capability centre (GCC) opportunity, planning to build a workforce of 1,000 forward-deployed context engineers (FDCEs) over the next 12 months as enterprises seek greater value from artificial intelligence deployments.

The company believes healthcare GCCs are entering a new phase of evolution, where demand is shifting from traditional engineering talent to professionals who combine deep domain expertise with AI capabilities. Speaking to **TOI**, Emids CEO **Abhishek Shankar** said most large healthcare companies already operate GCCs, but are now looking to transform them into strategic AI-led innovation hubs.

"Most Fortune 2000 healthcare companies already have GCCs, but in the AI era they are trying to derive significantly more value from them. What they need is not just engineers, but forward-deployed context engineers who understand the healthcare ecosystem and can effectively combine AI with domain expertise," Shankar said.

Forward-deployed context engineering replaces lengthy development cycles with AI-powered agents embedded within core healthcare functions such as claims processing, prior authorisation, care management and member engagement. These agents continuously learn from workflows and data, enabling organisations to deliver measurable outcomes in weeks rather than months. Emids plans to have at least 1,000 FDCEs operating from India and other delivery locations, including the Philippines, by 2027. Roughly half of the workforce will be newly hired, while the remainder will be developed through reskilling existing employees. The company currently employs more than 1,500 people in India. According to Shankar, AI is reshaping talent requirements within GCCs. "Finding people who understand the US healthcare market and can apply AI in that context is extremely difficult. That's where specialist firms like us come in," he said.

"WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR BROTHER ALSO PLAYING THE SAME SPORT, IT ALWAYS HELPS EACH OTHER. AND YEAH, 10 TROPHIES IN THE PANDYA HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A BAD NUMBER TO HAVE."
— On his bond with Hardik

"THE MOST SATISFYING FEELING AFTER WINNING IS THE SENSE OF RELIEF. THE PRESSURE YOU'VE CARRIED FOR TWO-AND-A-HALF MONTHS SUDDENLY DISAPPEARS."
— On winning back-to-back IPL titles

"NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. SOMETIMES I AM GENUINELY SCARED OF HIS QUESTIONS. HE'S THE ONLY PERSON I HAVE NO ANSWERS FOR AS HIS QUESTIONS ARE SO ON POINT."
— On whether his son is his biggest critic

'I CRAVE FOR TOUGH SITUATIONS'

Fresh off back-to-back IPL titles with RCB and a fifth crown overall, Krunal Pandya, dressed in black trousers and an oversized graphic camp collar shirt, arrived as Guest Sports Editor for **The Times Of India**. After greeting reporters and photographers, he sat down for an hour-long chat. However, before starting the interview, he paused mid-step, spotted a Ganesha idol, slipped off his footwear and offered a quiet prayer before settling in. The composed, spiritual gesture contrasts with the bling he wears—hard-earned symbols of a journey shaped by struggle. From early days as a passport agent and car broker to mastering a high-scoring T20 era, Pandya sees cricket as a mirror of life—demanding resilience and reinvention. He spoke movingly about his late father Himanshu's influence, the ragging he faces from his elder son, Kavir, aged four, the mental battles he has embraced, the hunger that still drives him and the hope for an India recall after five years. Excerpts...

Team TOI

Pics: SL Shanth Kumar

GUEST SPORTS EDITOR
KRUNAL PANDYA

Five-time IPL winners, two of those back-to-back (2019-2020 with MI, 2025-2026 with RCB). Has it sunk in yet?
Feels amazing. And to do it five times is something very special. For me, I have always manifested trophies in my life. It's nice when you do well individually and win games, but if you win a trophy and contribute to it, there is no better feeling. God has been really kind that I have been able to do it five times. But I feel like this is just the beginning.

Finger spin seemed to be a dying art, especially in this IPL where scores went through the roof. Yet you came through with an economy of 8.41...
Cricket, especially batting, has evolved in the IPL. To have longevity and impact as a bowler, you have to evolve too. The focus has always been on how I can get better and add more value to my skill set. I have also realised that between the skill battle, there is also a mental battle. Cricket is a sport full of uncertainty. I have always focused on staying one step ahead mentally.

Last year, I joined RCB for the first time. There was a huge motivation to win because the franchise had never won before, and personally, I hadn't won a trophy in four or five years. This season, I knew opponents would be better prepared against me. So before the tournament, I focused on how I could stay one step ahead. That's where the bouncers and slingers came into the picture. It wasn't about being unique or funny. It was about breaking the norm that a left-arm spinner can't bowl to a left-hander.

You last played for India five years ago. Since then, you've played for Lucknow and RCB. Talk us through that journey and how you've stayed motivated...
There is no better feeling than playing for the country. When I was six or seven years old, there was no IPL. The biggest dream for any cricketer was to play for India. I dreamt about it my entire life and got that opportunity in 2018. In the 18 games I played, I did decently well. I won a Man of the Match in Australia and New Zealand and a Man of the Series in the West Indies. I had a good run with the Indian team. Later, when I got another opportunity in One-day cricket, I did pretty well again.

I don't think too much about selection now. Of course, I am human and there is disappointment at times. But, you have to remind yourself why you started playing cricket. I have immense love for the sport, and that's what keeps me going.

What is it about finals that gets the best out of you?
I have always believed that preparation should be for the toughest situations. I know I can do well when things are easy, but what motivates me is performing when the stakes are high and things are going against me. I am a very reflective person, both in life and sport. A lot of that comes from my father. He was my role model. I watched how courageous he was and how he never gave up. That attitude has stayed with me.

Describe that dismissal of Jos Buttler...
When I bowled my third over in the final, Buttler went for a big shot but got an inside edge for a single. I then had six balls to think because I knew I would bowl the fourth over. I felt he would line me up in the next over because he hadn't got hold of me yet. I was thinking whether to bowl a bouncer or a wide yorker. I wanted to keep him guessing. Eventually, I decided on the wide yorker. It worked. He stepped out, got beaten, and was stumped.

Was the team also playing for the fans, especially considering what happened last year?
One hundred per cent. It's only been two years for me at RCB, but the amount of love I have received from fans everywhere has been incredible. Whether it was Guwahati, Raipur or Ahmedabad, people were supporting RCB. The fans are the heartbeat of this team.

What happened last year was very unfortunate. This title was for those who lost their lives.

Why is the RCB fan base so different?
That's a question I am also trying to figure out. The amount of love is overwhelming. I remember when I got picked by RCB two years ago, I was playing Ranji Trophy in Nashik and elderly people would come up and say, '*Beta*, this time RCB should win.' Then little kids would say the same thing. My son is four years old and understands everything. He is probably the No.1 RCB fan. He is obsessed with the team and the players.

How much does your son understand cricket?
I'll tell you a funny incident. In the final, I got Butler's wicket but scored only one run. After the game, when I picked him up, the first thing he asked was, '*Baba*, why did you get out? Why did you play that shot?'

I told him we had won, but he still wanted an answer. He knows every player, watches highlights and loves all the RCB players. He has amazing memories already, spending time with Virat, Tim David and the others. He's only four and already wants to play cricket. Let's see.

So he's your biggest critic?
There is no doubt about it. Sometimes I am genuinely scared of his questions. Against GT, I gave away 50 runs in four overs and he told me, '*Baba*, I was watching the highlights. You were getting hit for fours and sixes. Why were you bowling like this?'

"IF THE IMPACT PLAYER RULE GOES, THERE WILL BE A MASSIVE SHIFT IN THE SCORING."
—On the bat v ball imbalance

T20 is often described as a young man's game. Yet RCB's core includes players like Virat, Hazlewood and yourself, all in their mid-30s.
At the end of the day, it all comes down to fitness. I see myself playing for another five to seven years. If I am bowling bouncers now, my goal next year is to get them up to 125-130 kmph. Virat, Hazlewood and I are all in great shape mentally and physically. Experience is something that only comes with time. When you combine experience with fitness, that's probably the best place to be.

Speaking of fitness, how much does Virat motivate the group? Does he talk about it a lot?
He leads by example. The hunger he still has to perform and win is inspiring. Sometimes people get satisfied after one or two successes, but then you see someone who has made excellence a habit. You can still see his love for the game. If that love and hunger remain constant, the sky is the limit.

After 11 games this season, he had two ducks and people asked me whether we were worried. I told them I was excited. He had two back-to-back zeros and then went out and scored a match-winning hundred.

Has he personally inspired you?
One hundred per cent. I am also someone who plays aggressive cricket and loves winning. That doesn't mean I am a graceful loser, but I love winning.

Did you enjoy your duels with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who was the headline act of this IPL?
Oh, yeah. We played one game against RR in Guwahati. In fact, I got his wicket as well. But boy, what a talent! At 15! Generational talent. To bat like that at 15. Even if you are 30, 40, or 25, to bat like this is commendable. But 15? And he's not just slogging. That boy has brains. Look at how he batted in Qualifier-2 vs GT. He played the situation.

RCB seemed so much calmer this year, compared to last year. What would you put that down to?
I'll give a lot of credit to the support staff. Last year, everyone was playing for the first time as they were coming from a different franchise. This year, there was a sense of calmness within the group because we had already spent one year, played 16 games, and there was a sense of assuredness. Everything seemed to be in control because we knew each other's strengths and weaknesses, and a lot of credit goes to Andy Flower, Mo Bobat, Dinesh Karthik Malolan, Omkar Salvi, Freddie. They gave the players a lot of role clarity. It's important to imagine the IPL as a 10-year journey because it is such a long tournament. The memories of lifting trophies will fade with time. What will be remembered is the journey.

GUEST EDITOR'S PICKS

WE'RE PRETTY CLEAR ABOUT OUR T20 WORLD CUP COMBINATION: HARMANPREET
Taunton: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said India will use the two warm-up matches ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup to test a few more combinations and give opportunities to players such as Radha Yadav and Bharti Fulmali. "I feel we are pretty much clear, like what our XI is going to be going forward. We are pretty much clear and still we have two more games, practice games before the World Cup where we can still think about the other combinations," said Harmanpreet after India's loss to England in the final match of the T20I series on Tuesday.

David Beckham to get star on Hollywood Walk of Fame: Football superstar David Beckham is to be honoured with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, organizers announced Tuesday, as the United States readies to host the World Cup. Movie legend Tom Cruise and the player's pop star-turned-fashion designer wife Victoria Beckham will be at the ceremony on June 12 to unveil the plaque immortalizing the British midfielder on Hollywood's most famous thoroughfare.

Haryana set to revamp sports policy: Haryana is planning to revamp its decade-old sports policy to make it more focussed on nurturing future Olympians through a long-term talent development programme and providing athletes with seamless access to government services through a unified digital platform. The proposed revision is expected to further strengthen athlete welfare, talent development programmes, sports infrastructure and institutional support mechanisms.

"BOY, WHAT A TALENT! TO BAT LIKE THAT AT 15. I'M VERY EAGER TO SEE HOW HE CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY FORWARD IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS."
— **Krunal Pandya** on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

KRUNAL PANDYA

T20Is	M-19	Runs-124	Hs: 26*	Wkts-15	ER: 8.10
IPL	M-158	Runs-1982	Hs-86	Wkts-107	ER: 7.57

Sachin Tendulkar recently proposed that the impact sub rule should be scrapped. You are an allrounder yourself. Do you think it hurts the development of allrounders?
I have always played cricket as an 11 vs 11 game. If you scrap the impact player rule, the battle becomes even. The essence of the game goes away when you have the impact player on. The beauty of this game is that you play the situation. The tactical changes you need to make. Should I bring my main bowler on, or should I squeeze one over out of the part-timer? Sometimes, the low-scoring 130-140 games are the most exciting. Even this year, LSG vs KKR and MI vs RCB in Raipur were the most exciting matches. More all-rounders will come into the game with the impact rule scrapped.

How do you look at the data vs instinct debate? You are in a team that is data driven and match-up driven?
For me, data is information, but at the end of the day, it's a combination of following your instinct with data. My early days were in Mumbai. And over there, I learnt a lot in terms of how to prepare. I've continued doing that. For me, knowing strengths and weaknesses about batters before playing the game gives me greater chances of success. But still, you can't just go by data. Data is information, and at a particular moment, you just follow your instinct about what is right then.

We have known you as someone who's a very emotional cricketer, who plays with a lot of pride, yet you also tend to perform very well under pressure. Is this something you've learned? Can this be taught?
I actually wait and crave for situations where it is tough. I don't know, I guess my way of playing cricket is actually what I've learned through my life. So, it's a lot to do how, at a very young age, my... I'll just go back to my growing up days. When I was 11-12 years old, I used to work with my dad. My dad was a passport advisor agent, so, at 12, I used to go with him. So, I experienced life through business with my dad, mom, at a very young age. And then I realized how tough life is. Sometimes our parents don't tell us while we are growing up, and my parents were also like that. But I did that at 14-15, I used to be with my dad. I myself was a passport agent. I used to make ration cards for people.

Then I used to be a car broker once upon a time. So, I've seen life at a very young age from very close quarters. So I guess when I play the sport, I play the same way. I don't give up. And when the situation is tough, I'm like, 'I have to win it'. I've always realized one thing. You play the sport the way you live your life. Because at the end of the day, you only have one brain, It's not that in cricket you will use another brain and another brain for life.

What was the most expensive or fanciest car you sold?
We used to sell second-hand cars. It used to be 3-4 lakh rupees. You used to get a commission of Rs 3000, agent fee. I was a passport agent myself. I used to fill forms. I used to do affidavits. I used to do paperwork, everyone's ration card, light bill, then two ID proofs, school leaving certificate, filling forms online, taking it, getting the Xerox copy, then getting the affidavit done, visiting Times of India office for name corrections via paper cuttings. Yeah, I have done lot of things.

You and Hardik share a great bond, how often do you chat about cricket?
Obviously, we have played together. We have always discussed cricket in terms of tactical, technical stuff which always helps. It has always been a good conversation, a very healthy conversation about cricket and how we can get better. And yeah, I mean, 10 trophies in the Pandya household is not a bad number to have. God's been kind.

You spoke of your dad a lot and the influence he had when you were growing up. Five years back, when you lost him, you were playing a game of cricket when the news came to you. How much did that change you as a person and the way you approach your cricket?
No doubt about it. I mean, you can't replace your parents, right, at the end of the day. And when I lost my dad, that hole will be there forever in my life. Generally, I don't like to speak about it because I'm very emotional. Though in matches, I look very aggressive and very arrogant, but off field when something happens to me, I am like a baby, I cry a lot.

I always tell people that I started playing cricket when I was six. Only after 2-3 years, I realized that I want to play for India. But my dad dreamt of it first. He wanted me to play cricket and then he moved from Surat to Baroda. He saw a lot of ups and downs in his life. But I never saw my dad crying or cribbing about anything. My dad was like, 'We'll figure it out'.

Coming back to the balance of the game, currently of course fans are really taking to these six-hitting frenzies, but speaking to the bowler in you, are you concerned that at some point, the appetite for these mega-run fests will diminish and that's something the authorities need to be mindful of?
I mean, some of the rules will change, so you will see a drastic change in terms of scoring as well. Everyone is very vocal about having that balance between bat and ball. So I guess if that is done, then again bowlers will come into play.

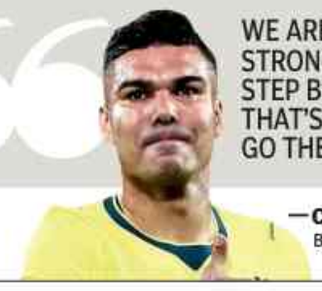
Obviously now, for example, last year, this year, we had an impact player rule. Everyone knew that there are eight batters, gun batters. I guess sometimes, rather than dwelling too much on it, you know as a bowler that it's not in your hand, this is what the reality is. So rather than talking about that, I looked at it like 'this is the reality, how can I figure out? How can I now have an impact as a bowler?' So it boils down to that also rather than dwelling too much into it.

But, yeah, I guess once we change, if the impact player rule goes, there will be a massive shift in the scoring. Because right now, you have eight batters, proper. Now when the impact player rule goes, suddenly your seventh is an allrounder who has to bowl four overs.

Suddenly in top 6, you need someone who can give you two overs. So the whole dynamics change. Now imagine right now if you are batting at number 4 or 5, you know there is a batter at 8. So your approach towards the game is very different. But if you are batting at 4, 5, and you know that number 7 is an allrounder and 6 is an allrounder, your approach changes. So I guess that rule will change the entire way of looking at the game.

Are you hopeful of an India comeback or do you feel the selectors have moved beyond you?
Yeah, hope is always there, right? I am hopeful that I'll get the opportunity again to play for the country. Fingers crossed, but I am hopeful.

In the top 10 wicket takers, there was only one spinner, Rashid Khan and even if you look at the economy rates, the only person in the top 10 was Sunil Narine. You were, in fact, one of the most successful spinners in the competition. Does this worry you that the Indian spinners didn't really have much of an impact this time?
I mean, there have been impactful performances by the spinners as well if you see. It's just that you have to evolve, that is very important and it's not a worry. I think we are going really well in terms of bowlers and in terms of allrounders. I don't see any worry in that. But yeah, it is very important to evolve and get better.



"WE AREN'T THE BIG FAVOURITES. WE'VE GOT A STRONG SQUAD. PERHAPS THIS TIME WE'RE A STEP BEHIND, BUT WE'RE ON OUR TOES AND THAT'S ALWAYS A GOOD THING. WE WANT TO GO THERE AND HAVE A GREAT WORLD CUP."

—CASEMIRO
BRAZIL MIDFIELDER

More the merrier, or bigger the blander?

Is this a World Cup for the ages, or a spectacular overkill? It promises inclusiveness but at the risk of diluting competition

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As a supersized World Cup is set to unleash a unique summer of many firsts, the biggest stage of the world's most popular game is facing its moment of truth. Forty-eight teams, 104 games, 39 days, 16 venues and three host nations — FIFA, the game's global governing body, has doubtless played the numbers game in a staggering fashion.

Take for example this piece of data. Every World Cup from 1998 to 2022 had 64 games. But this time around, 72 games alone — eight games more than an entire 32-team World Cup — will be required for the organisers to reach the round-of-32 stage, the first knockouts. Quite an XL version of the previous format you may say.

This also brings us to an obvious question: What's the need of tweaking an already successful and competitive 32-team model that had captured the game's theatrical tension on a grand scale over the years — culminating in Argentina's dramatic triumph over France in the last edition's final?

In business theory, the Red Queen Effect — drawing inspiration from Lewis Carroll's book 'Through the Looking-Glass' — implies a situation where standing still is equivalent to falling behind in a dynamic and complex adaptive environment.

In Feb 2016, for a 46-year-old who had just become the most powerful man in world football and presiding over an organization damaged by Sepp Blatter's controversy-ridden reign, standing still was out of the question.

Infantino's brainchild

So, nine years ago when the FIFA Council put a seal of approval on Gianni Infantino's brainchild, a delighted FIFA president said, "This is a historic decision to shape the World Cup of the 21st century. Football is more than Europe and South America and it should give more countries the chance to dream," he further noted after that Jan 2017 meeting in Zurich.

The move has since come to divide opinion.

Juergen Klopp had feared at that it would "dilute" the competitive balance. Former US forward Clint Dempsey in a recent interview echoed the sentiment saying that "it's almost like it doesn't start until the round of 32".

For others it's 'a natural evolution'. Former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger — now serving as FIFA chief of global football development — has insisted that it's "the right number" for the game's biggest show.

Growing from strength to strength

What we are going to witness in the US, Canada and Mexico a week from now is a far cry from the inaugural event in 1930 in Uruguay where only three stadiums in Montevideo were used for 13 teams and the 18 games played over 17 days.

The number of participating teams has since grown from strength to strength: 16 in 1934 (briefly decreased to 15 in 1938 and further back to 13 in 1950); 24 from 1982 and 32 from 1998, and now 48 in 2026.

This move to aggrandize FIFA's 'golden goose' is aimed at making the game 'truly global.' Infantino's theory here is simple: with a greater chance to qualify and more berths up for grabs, more nations — particularly from Africa and Asia — will be involved and boost FIFA's revenues along the way.

Curaçao, the smallest country by population ever to qualify for the World Cup, will join Jordan, Cape Verde and Uzbekistan and land in North America as four debutants.

In Qatar four years ago, there were only five African nations while 13 came from Europe. The expansion now illustrates a relatively even share — 16 from Europe, 10 from Africa, nine from Asia and six each from South America and CONCACAF plus New Zealand.

A death knell for the Group of Death?

Yet, many fear that one of the collateral damages in FIFA's expansion venture could be elimination of the World Cup's traditional 'Group of Death' spectacle.

Sure, we can expect some sparks to fly in Group I with France taking on their 2002 nemesis Senegal, Erling Haaland's Norway and Iraq or in Group L with England having their task cut out against Croatia and Ghana. But these are nothing quite like those group-stage match-ups from the past where more than two teams came squaring off against each other sprinkling pure footballing stardust on the tournament early on. The mind goes back to 1982 when Italy had to beat Brazil and Argentina in Group C on way to winning the title, or in 2018 when defending champions Germany crashed out without a win after finishing last in a group which also had Sweden, Mexico and South Korea.

Moreover, with eight of the 12 nations finishing third in their groups having a chance to make the round of 32, this expanded format is also offering a route to staying alive that was not previously available.

The naysayers have also pointed out that FIFA's more-matches-more-money mantra is bordering on overkill, giving players little time to recover before the next season comes knocking and lamenting how an essentially working-class sport is being usurped by corporate packages, ticketing drama and Donald Trump's foreign policy.

A guessing game

When Infantino mooted the idea of an expanded World Cup, the Euro 2016 was already there as a case study. UEFA took the gamble of increasing the number of teams from 16 to 24 for the first time, along with the introduction of a convoluted third-placed qualifier system. The weaker team entered the competition knowing that a win was no longer crucial to qualification. True that the story of an Iceland sending England packing to reach quarterfinals came out of the pages of the Euro 2016, but the same tournament would also be remembered for how Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal limped towards the title after finishing third in the group stage and winning only one game at the tournament within 90 minutes.

Beautiful or boring game? The choice is yours.

This eventually takes us to the Red Queen Effect and what the Red Queen told little Alice in Carroll's masterpiece: "It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

A SUPERSIZED WORLD CUP
EVERYTHING'S BIGGER THIS TIME
1,248 players
104 matches
3 HOSTS (Canada, Mexico and USA)
891 players are set to experience the competition for the first time
PARTICIPATING TEAMS 48
GROUP STAGE 12 GROUPS
4 TEAMS EACH
Knockouts | Top two teams from each group and the eight best third-placed teams make the Round of 32.
TOTAL MATCHES 104
Path to glory | Eventual winners to play 8 games instead of traditional 7
449 different clubs from 71 countries represented
14 AFC region
6 CAF
7 Concacaf
8 CONMEBOL
1 OFC
35 UEFA
HOW THE WORLD CUP HAS GROWN OVER YEARS
(*Total Number Of Participating Teams)
13* 16 15 13 16 24 32 48
1934 1934 1938 1950 1954-1978 1982-1994 1998-2022 2026
78 The US will host 78 games alone — the biggest by a host country in the World Cup history — with Mexico and Canada hosting 13 each.
72 This World Cup will take 72 games – eight games more than an entire 32-team World Cup – just to reach the round-of-32 stage.
16 The number of venues to be used across three co-hosts during the tournament — 11 in the US, 3 in Mexico and 2 in Canada
Graphic: Anil Panwar

TIME TO ASK APOLLO AI
LOW TESTOSTERONE
A 20% drop in testosterone can cause extreme fatigue, muscle loss, and mood swings.
Scan to understand your symptoms
For any Health Query Chat with
Ask Apollo AI
Apollo All Clinical excellence for healthier India

KNOW GROUP B

Country	Best finish	Path to finals
Canada	Gr stage 1986, 2022	Qualified as co-hosts
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Gr stage 2022	Through Playoffs
Qatar	Gr stage 2022	Won AFC Fourth-Round Group A
Switzerland	Quarterfinals 1934, 1938, 1954	Finished first in UEFA Qualifying Group B

MEAZZA'S WARDROBE MALFUNCTION

BACK PASS

Italian star **Giuseppe Meazza** (in black) found himself in a predicament during the 1938 semifinal against Brazil. The elastic in his shorts snapped just before he took a penalty. With no time to change, he stepped up holding his shorts with one hand and struck the spot-kick with the other arm balancing him. He scored. Then, celebrating with both hands raised, he lost his grip and his shorts fell down. An assistant hurriedly supplied a replacement pair before play resumed. The goal stands among the most unintentionally comic moments ever seen at a World Cup.

IRAN TO PLAY FRIENDLY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Iran will play their final FIFA World Cup warm-up behind closed doors in Turkey on Thursday before departing for their tournament base in Mexico on Saturday, the Iranian FA (FFIRI) said on Wednesday. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday said, "Washington had 'no problem' with the Iranian team entering the country, but would not let officials with ties to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) accompany them." The US and Israel launched war against Iran in late February.

BELGIUM URGE CALM AFTER WIN VS CROATIA

Belgium are seeking to temper any expectations after an impressive 2-0 away victory in Croatia on Tuesday, where a goal from Romelu Lukaku came as a major boost ahead of the World Cup. Belgium's top scorer Lukaku netted his 90th international goal in the 2-0 win. "For him, it's huge. So the fact that he scored is something we're really happy about," said coach Rudi Garcia. Lukaku has been struggling with a hamstring injury and last played in early March.

ARTIST WYLAND SUES FIFA OVER DESTRUCTION OF DALLAS WHALE MURAL

The artist who painted a giant mural on a building in Dallas of life-sized swimming whales has filed a $25 million lawsuit against soccer's international governing body and others, saying they illegally painted over his work to promote the city's upcoming World Cup matches.

The artist Wyland says he hand-painted the sprawling mural that covered roughly 17,000 square feet (1,580 square meters) across two of the building's walls.

New Zealand's Sarpreet carrying Sikh pride into the World Cup

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Panaji: When New Zealand coach Darren Bazeley arrived in Wellington to inform players who had made it to the FIFA World Cup 2026 squad, Sarpreet Singh had terrible butterflies.

The Wellington Phoenix midfielder with roots in Jalandhar was a regular for New Zealand during the World Cup qualifiers but picked up a knee injury on his return to his boyhood club from Serbia earlier this year. In his first game, he was floored by a strong tackle and was out of action since mid-February. Bazeley's words before the official announcement helped settle his nerves.

"You're always a little bit anxious (due to injury), but once coach said I'll be going to the World Cup, it was an amazing feeling," Sarpreet told **TOI** over a video call. "It's a huge honour. Think a boy who grew up in New Zealand, obviously with my background, being Indian, it's quite a proud moment for myself, for my family."

When New Zealand march out for the much talked about World Cup opener against Iran in Los Angeles on June 15, Sarpreet will count himself among a handful of players of Indian origin — and the first Sikh footballer — to have made it so far.

"I've had quite a few people tell me that I am the first Sikh footballer at the World Cup. I carry a huge responsibility and pride, representing my culture, my people. To be the first is very special. I also want to pave way for the next generation, so we have more from the Indian community coming through and being able to play on the world stage. I want to be a role model, try and lift the name higher," said Sarpreet, who has now recovered from a medial collateral ligament (MCL) injury.

In a country where rugby and cricket are the two most popular sport, Sarpreet's parents introduced him to football, enrolling him at the Wynrs Wynton Rufer Soccer academy aged seven. Since then, it's been a steady rise as he made his senior team debut in the Australian top tier at 16, showed potential and was later scouted by German giants Bayern Munich.

HAITI GIVE NEW ZEALAND A RUDE AWAKENING

Miami: Coach Darren Bazeley called it 'really disappointing' as his New Zealand side suffered a 4-0 World Cup warm-up defeat to fellow qualifiers Haiti on Tuesday.

It was New Zealand's heaviest loss in nine years.

The game at Inter Miami's stadium in Fort Lauderdale — started 30 minutes late because of the weather. When it did begin, Haiti took the lead after 12 minutes through Ruben Providence.

The 32-year-old New Zealand defender Tim Payne was among a raft of players to come off at half-time.

With much of the crowd behind them, Haiti scored after the break through Lenny Joseph, Frantzdy Pierrot and Duke Lacroix as the New Zealand defence capitulated. AFP

Kane able for Golden Boot, Ballon d'Or

John Cross

England captain Harry Kane says his goalscoring feats have been 'pretty crazy' — but now he is targeting more records and the Ballon d'Or.

In his own understated way, the striker believes he should get the ultimate player award after his incredible, prolific season which yielded 61 goals for German champions Bayern Munich.

But Kane says he also wants records at the World Cup — and writing his name into history alongside Lionel Messi and Co is a huge motivational factor.

"It is a pretty crazy total. My previous record for a single club season was 44 goals in 2023-2024," Kane said. "Once you cross that 60-goal threshold, you find yourself in a stratosphere that, in recent times, had only been inhabited by the likes of Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. Back then, their statistics truly seemed out of reach to me."

Messi scored 73 goals in 20112012 and Ronaldo 61 in 2014-2015. Kane added: "If I crossed the 60-goal mark this season, it's simply because — unlike in previous years — I didn't experience any dips in form."

Kane, speaking to L'Equipe, revealed he has his eyes on the Ballon d'Or.

"I like to use those kinds of benchmarks to motivate myself," he said. "That said, with an award like the Golden Boot, you have to remember that none of it would have been possible without my teammates, my club's staff, and everyone who supports me on a daily basis.

"Given the trophies I've won this season and the number of goals I've scored, I'd definitely be in the running for the Ballon d'Or.

"If England were to win the World Cup, one could imagine the trophy going to an English player. When you look at who the favourites are to land the Ballon d'Or, there's Michael Olise, players who reached the Champions League final, and myself. I'm not the kind of person to claim that I deserve a Ballon d'Or.

"I try to let my performances on the pitch do the talking."

Kane won the Golden Boot at the 2018 World Cup with six goals and has two records in his sights this summer. He has scored eight in World Cups and would like to beat Gary Lineker's record as the top-scoring Englishman with 10. Miroslav Klose is the World Cup's leading scorer with 16.

Kane added: "The one that would be extraordinary to hold is the record for the most goals in World Cups. But I'm still too far away." DAILY MIRROR

FOR ENGLAND

112 appearances	78 goals

With Bayern this season

61 Kane has scored 61 goals across all competitions for his club in this campaign including 14 in the Champions League.

- Winner of the 2018 World Cup Golden Boot after scoring 6 goals in the tournament.
- Highest goalscorer in all competitions for clubs across Europe in the 2025-26 season.
- All-time leading goalscorer for England national team.

'He knew everything already': Why Messi's childhood coach threw in the towel

Rosario: Lionel Messi's showstopping talent brought a premature end to the career of his childhood football coach, who decided to bow out after training 'the best player in the world.' Coach Enrique Dominguez was just 45 when Messi was blazing a trial as a pre-teen in his hometown of Rosario. Messi was born in the city on the Parana river.

The house where he grew up, in the working-class district of La Bajada, is a place of pilgrimage for lovers of the beautiful game. The life story of Rosario's favourite son is splashed across the walls and tower blocks of his hometown, in giant murals. "From another galaxy but from my neighbourhood," the inscription on one such tribute reads.

"Leo, your greatness transcends frontiers. A grateful Colombian," a message scrawled on the flag reads. Walter Barrera, one of Messi's childhood friends, grew up around the corner. He remembers a shortcut the pair used to take to school, through a hole they cut in the barbed wire fence around a military base. On one occasion, the soldier on guard gave chase to the pair. "We were a little bit unruly but we weren't bad kids," he confided with a smile.

The two friends tried their hand at various sports as children, from rugby to baseball and footvolley.

But Messi's footballing destiny was clear. "We knew he'd go far, he was an ace (at football)," Walter said. At the age of five, the lightning-fast footwork of the kid nicknamed La Pulga (The Flea) because of his short stature, were already a source of wonder at his local club.

Soon after, he joined Malvinas Argentinas, the youth academy of Newell's Old Boys, Rosario's top team of which he is still an avid fan.

It was at Newell's that he met coach Dominguez, who retired soon after.

"For me, he was like a gift from God," the 72-year-old former instructor said. "One day someone asked me, 'What do you recognize of your teaching when you see Leo play'? Nothing, because there was nothing to teach him. He knew everything already. What Leo does on the field today he was already doing at the age of 12."

Adrian Coria, who also coached Messi at Newell's, recalls the money struggles of the Messi family when Lionel was young.

His father Jorge, a factory worker, used to say he wasn't sure his son could make training "because he didn't have enough money for petrol." It was around that time that Jorge and his wife Celia Maria Cuccitini, who worked as a cleaner, learned that their son had a growth hormone deficiency, which risked jeopardizing his career.

"Leo was 40 centimetres (16 inches) shorter than his teammates and 15 kg (33 pounds) lighter. For a player that's hard," Coria said.

The family arranged for Lionel to try out with FC Barcelona's youth academy, La Masia, which immediately snapped him up and arranged to pay for his treatment.

Messi moved to Barcelona in 2000 at the age of 13. He has not lived in Argentina since. AFP

LITTLE LEO: Antonio Dominguez (right), former coach of Lionel Messi in Newell's youth teams, with a photo of Messi (centre) with teammates at the Malvinas Argentinas children's football school in Rosario

Captain to train alone

Lionel Messi has arrived at Argentina's base nursing a damaged hamstring. The Argentina captain has been sidelined since last month. He faces a race against time to recover ahead of Argentina's opening game against Algeria on June 16. The 38-year-old linked up with his teammates in Kansas at the start of this week. He has been handed an individual recovery programme, which will see him train alone.

SNAP SHOTS

India women go down

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said India will use the two warm-up matches ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup to test a few more combinations and give opportunities to players such as Radha Yadav and Bharti Fulmali. After registering a 38-run victory in the opener, India slipped to a 26-run defeat before losing the decider by six wickets on Tuesday. **Brief scores: India: 180/5 in 20 overs** (Yastika Bhatia 32, Harmanpreet Kaur 56 n.o., Deepti Sharma 32; Lauren Bell 2-36) lost to **England: 184/4 in 18.3 overs** (Alice Capsey 82, Heather Knight 70 n.o.; Arundhati Reddy 2-31, Kranti Gaud 2-40).

NZ series in Oct: India will tour New Zealand for a marathon all-format series from Oct 22 to Dec 1 this year, featuring an unprecedented 10 white-ball games. India will take on the Black Caps in five T20Is, as many ODIs and two Tests.

Aus shock Pak: Fast bowler Nathan Ellis took a career best four-wicket haul as an understrength Australia shocked Pakistan by 41 runs in the second ODI in Lahore on Tuesday, levelling the series 1-1. **Brief scores: Australia: 231/9 in 50 overs** (Inglis 51, Green 53, Renshaw 43; Afridi 3-36) bt **Pakistan: 190 in 44 overs** (Ghazi Ghori 37, Shadab Khan 71, Arafat 33; Nathan Ellis 4-33, Matthew Short 3-36).

Cummins might skip next IPL: Australia captain Pat Cummins indicated he might skip the IPL next year to prioritise a heavy Test schedule and the ODI World Cup. "Something has got to give at some stage next year and it's not going to be Test matches or an ODI World Cup," Cummins told the Sydney Morning Herald.

India vs B'desh in final: Five-time champions India will take on Bangladesh in the final of the SAFF Women's Championship. In the semis, Sanfida Nongrum scored the winner in the 60th minute as India beat Bhutan 1-0.

Hockey colts rout Singapore: India, who are already through to the semifinals, thrashed Singapore 25-0 in their final Pool A match of the Women's U-18 Asia Cup in Kakamigahara, Japan.

Dharshan shines for KFD: Dharshan scored four goals to power Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) to a 7-1 win over Falcon Hockey Club in the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship in Bengaluru on Wednesday. **Results:** KFD 7 (Dharshan 7, 17, 31, 39, Surya 9, Mithun Bijwad 29, Raghu Kurwar 47) bt Falcon HC 1 (Suresh 43); HFC 8 (Anand 11, 36, Lakshman 15, 38, 43, Suraj 26, Hariharan 21, 47) bt Bengaluru Blues HC 0.

Praveen stars for Blue Star: Blue Star rode on Praveen Kumar's brace to clinch a 4-2 win over Football Aura in the KSFA 'C' Division League Football Championship in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

This newspaper is published by Manjeet Singh Dhami from Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., Elixir Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bangaluru – 560025 (Printers Office: EPABX - 080-42200000, Editorial: 080-46787878) on behalf of Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., edited by Neelam Raaj and printed by Sekar S at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Ph: 080-22899999), Regd office: Dr. D. N. Road, Mumbai - 400001. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.
REGD. NO. CPMG/KA/GPO-31/2003-05, RNI NO. 45466/85

Maja, diamond in the rough

Polish Girl Continues Dream Run, Shnaider Stuns Sabalenka

THE TIMES OF INDIA AT ROLAND GARROS

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AP

JUBILANT: Maja Chwalinska reacts after winning her quarterfinal match

Maja Chwalinska, the daughter of a coal miner, is living her dream in Paris. Chwalinska, 24, from Dabrowa Gornicza in southern Poland, arrived at Roland Garros with just one Grand Slam match win in her career. She has since reeled off eight consecutive victories to reach the French Open semi-finals.

Chwalinska's journey has been anything but straightforward. The left-hander, ranked 114th in the world, stepped

FRENCH OPEN

away from the sport indefinitely in September 2022 while struggling with depression. On Wednesday, amid swirling winds at Roland Garros, she continued her remarkable comeback by beating Anna Kalinskaya, the 22nd seed, 7-6 (3), 6-3 in a last-eight clash.

Next up for Chwalinska, whose variety from the back of the court, stands as a refreshing contrast in an era dominated by power hitters, is another Russian, the 25th seed Diana Shnaider.

Shnaider booked her place in the semi-finals, surviving a dramatic encounter with world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka. Trailing 3-6, 3-5 Shnaider watched as Sabalenka unravelled on Court Philippe-Chatrier. The Belarusian, on the verge of a milestone 400th career win, dropped the final 10 games as Shnaider took the match 3-6, 7-5, 6-0.

The diminutive Pole's story was the one that lit up the grounds on an overcast day. A childhood friend of Iga Swiatek and her partner in the 2017 Australian Open girls' doubles final, Chwalinska has overcome far more than her opponents. After a battle with depression that left her unable to leave her bedroom for days on end, she surrounded herself with people she felt safe with, her parents, the now retired Tomasz and Marcela, who still holds her job as a receptionist, and her long-time coach Jaroslav Machovsky.

Chwalinska, the second qualifier after Nadia Podoroska in 2020 to reach the singles semi-finals at Roland Garros, played sporadically in 2020 and 2021. "I was struggling a lot and in the beginning I pushed. I thought that I need to stay strong, and just keep practicing," she said, "Then I couldn't get out of bed anymore. I was lifeless, I knew that I needed to take a break and honestly I didn't know if I was going to come back."

One of the things Chwalinska is doing for her mental well-being is staying away from social media. "I post and then I quit, because I just really want to focus," she said.

'Got into a dark hole'

The world No. 1, who lost ten straight games when serving for a place in the Roland Garros semifinals on Wednesday, says she wants to spend a day smashing things. "Maybe it will help, maybe not," she admitted.

Sabalenka, who endured a collapse of sorts in last year's final against Coco Gauff, arrived for her press duties drained of emotion after the 2-hour 12-minute quarterfinal. "I don't know when was the last time this happened, that I lost 10 games in a row," she said. "I guess mentally I got into a very deep, deep, dark hole, and I couldn' get back mentally." TNN

Surya could lose job

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New Delhi: The Indian cricket board (BCCI) is set to get in a huddle to discuss Suryakumar Yadav's future in the T20I team. TOI understands that there's a strong possibility that the current T20 captain, who led the team to successfully defend the T20 title in March, may not be asked to attend the next selection

CRICKET

meeting for the white-ball tour of Ireland and England later this month.

The selection meeting, it is learnt, will be either held in Chandigarh or Mumbai around the one-off Test between India and Afghanistan from June 6. The matter will be discussed on the sidelines of the BCCI's apex council meeting on Thursday.

TOI had first reported on April 18 that Surya's position has been under scanner with the selectors mulling a new captain. On May 31, TOI reported that Surya was omitted from the long list of probables for this year's Asian Games since the selectors wanted to try new captaincy options as they are preparing a succession plan.

It is learnt that Shreyas Iyer, Tilak Varma and Sanju Samson are the contenders. There's also an idea floated that vice-captain Axar Patel may be allowed to take charge on an interim basis to let Iyer and Varma settle in the team. Shubman Gill is asked to focus on Test and ODI cricket at the moment. Surya has endured a prolonged slump in form in international cricket since the 2024 T20 World Cup. He struggled to regain his form in this IPL as well. It will be very difficult for the selectors to bet on the 35-year-old for the LA Olympics in 2028 and next T20 World Cup in 2028.

PAPARKAR'S FINE RUN COMES TO A HALT

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Paris: Arnav Paparkar's spirited run in the French Open boys' singles came to an end in the third round, where he fell to the fourth-seeded American Jack Kennedy in straight sets.
Kennedy, ranked 11 among ITF juniors and 426 on the ATP Tour, motored around the court using the wet, moisture laden conditions well. He repeatedly drew the Indian wide on his backhand, the low bounce adding to Paparkar's misery, to score a 7-5, 6-2 win.
Paparkar, who stands 6 feet, 1 inch in his tennis shoes, some four inches taller than his opponent, did well to change the pace and the length of his shots to fight his way back into the match after a poor start. He levelled at 2-2 and then 5-5. Kennedy, however, won eight of the next 10 games to wrap up the match.
Paparkar, who was back on court for the boys doubles, partnering Thailand's Kunanan Pantaratorn, went down to the top-seeds Brazil's Luis Guto Miguel and Slovenia's Ziga Sesko 3-6, 3-6 in the second round.

BALAJI- DEMOLINER BOW OUT
The Indo-Brazilian combination of Sriram Balaji and Marcelo Demoliner went down to second seeds Finland's Harri Heliovaara and Briton Henry Patten in the quarterfinals of the men's doubles action. Balaji, playing his first major quarterfinal, and Demoliner, lost 3-6, 4-6 in just under 80 minutes.

Sherpa wins Varahi Trophy

Mysuru: JS Pillay-trained Sherpa, ridden by Alex Rozario, won the Varahi Trophy — the feature event of the summer races here on Wednesday.

Results: 1. The Balamuri Plate (Div II) 1400M: Knotty Methods 1, Bundelkhand Queen 2, Pette's Choice 3, Brocston 4. Not Run: Samarth 3/4l, 1l, 3/4l. T: 1.32.43. Tote: Rs 772 (W). 46, 36, 17 (P). Fc: c/o (Rs 10,722). Q: Rs 7,552. Shp: Rs 110. Thp: Rs 49. Trinalla: c/o (Rs 37,015). Exacta: c/o. (Rs 17,908).
2. The Prince Regent Plate 1100M: Choice 1, Biometric 2, Sunway Lagoon 3, Arikattu 4. 1/2l, 1-1/2l, 3/4l. T: 1.09.32. Tote: Rs 118 (W). 49, 12, 22 (P). Fc: Rs 880. Q: Rs 317. Shp: Rs 29. Thp: Rs 58. Trinalla: Rs 4,910 & 2,455. Exacta: c/o (Rs 17,157) **3. The Balamuri Plate (Div I) 1400M:** Natural Queen 1, Perfect Heart 2, City of Hustle 3, Everwin 4. 2-1/2l, 1-1/4l, 1-3/4l. T: 1.31.36. Tote: Rs 47 (W). 11, 14, 17 (P). Fc: Rs 152. Q: Rs 44. Shp: Rs 31. Thp: Rs 102. Trinalla: Rs 1587 & 1739. Exacta: c/o & Rs 5,874.
4. The Kolar Plate (Div. II) 1400M: Krishvi 1, Natural Look 2, Martino 3, Kallania 4. Not Run: Looking For Ladoo. 4l, 5-1/2l, Hd. T: 1.30.66. Tote: Rs 67 (W). 13, 14, 32 (P). Fc: Rs 397. Q: Rs 119. Shp: Rs 32. Thp: Rs 70. Trinalla: Rs 3466 & 2971. Exacta: c/o (Rs 6233).
5. The Red Satin Plate 1200M: Vandhiyathevan 1, Drisana 2. Bluemed 3, Absolutechallenger 4. Not Run: Persian Rock. 1/2l, 2-3/4l, 1/2l. T: 1.15.07. Tote: Rs 26 (W). 18, 13, 20 (P). Fc: Rs 120. Q: Rs 42. Shp: Rs 35. Thp: Rs 52. Trinalla: Rs 571 & 552. Exacta: Rs 4342 & 3721.
6. The Varahi Trophy 1200M: Sherpa 1, Falcon Fury 2, Amazing Imrarifa 3, Isabelle 4. 4-1/2l, 4-1/4l, 1-1/2l. T: 1.14.53. Tote: Rs 68 (W). 26, 26, 12 (P). Fc: Rs 192. Q: Rs 99. Shp: Rs 56. Thp: Rs 51. Trinalla: Rs 1913 & 771. Exacta: c/o (Rs 70,514). **7. The Kolar Plate (Div. I) 1400M:** Mind Games 1, Bold Show 2, Reign Of Terror 3, To Hot To Touch 4. Not Run: Cloud Jumper, Cosette, Polar Wind & Code Of Honour. 9-3/4l, 2-1/4l, 1/2l. T: 1.29.78. Tote: Rs 17 (W). 10, 10, 13 (P). Fc: Rs 36. Q: Rs 22. Shp: Rs 34. Thp: Rs 39. Trinalla: Rs 90 & 38. Exacta: Rs 424.
8. The Nagamangala Plate 1400M: Gemini 1, Aurele 2, Prince Corporate 3, Time For Victory 4. Not Run: Serrano Ns, Nk, Shd. T: 1.29.50. Tote: Rs 158 (W). 47, 24, 20 (P). Fc: Rs 1049. Q: Rs 1694. Shp: Rs 41. Thp: Rs 32. Trinalla: Rs 4095 & 1365. Exacta: c/o (Rs 18,469).
Jackpot: Rs 1,27,451. **Runner-up:** Rs 2,061. **Mini Jackpot:** c/o (Rs 3,031). **First Treble:** c/o (Rs 318). **Second Treble:** c/o (Rs 1,124) **Third Treble:** Rs 1,545. TNN

Satwik-Chirag retire

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Fresh from the long-awaited title triumph, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty suffered an injury setback, seven minutes into their first round contest against Malaysia's Kang Khai Xing and Aaron Tai at the Indonesian Open BWF Super-1000 tournament in Jakarta on Wednesday.

BADMINTON

Satwik, who had recovered from the shoulder injury pointed to right shoulder when the Indians were trailing at 6-11 in the first game. The players and their coaches decided not to push further and decided to retire.

The pair has endured several injuries over the last two years, and that has affected their progress.

AYUSH IN PRE-QUARTERS
Fast-rising Ayush Shetty rallied after losing the first game to beat Hong Weng Yang of China 8-21, 22-20, 21-15 in the men's singles first round. The world No.20 Indian fared poorly in the first game before saving a match point at 19-20 to get past the world No.15 shuttler. HS Prannoy lost against Nhat Nguyen 17-21, 21-16, 19-21.

It's Pragg-magic as Carlsen blunders again

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Oslo: The prospect of Magnus Carlsen losing two classical games to the same player in one tournament appears unthinkable — due to his strength and rarity of double round-robin events. It's even more unthinkable the way he lost to R Praggnanandhaa. The 20-year-old In-

NORWAY CHESS

dian was rewarded with his second win over the world No. 1 in the Norway Chess tournament at the Oslo Public Library on Tuesday. Carlsen, 35, suffered his fourth defeat in the meet (like in 2015) but still has mathematical chances to win the title.

"I was well prepared. He handled the position and held his own remarkably well," said Pragg, "I thought it would end in a draw. But suddenly the blunder came. I am glad that I took the risk earlier in the game and kept on pushing for a win."

Carlsen told the TV broadcast that he was so "talentless" that he forgot that Pragg's bishop was unpinned and that could join in the attack against his king. Carlsen is languishing at the fifth spot in a six-player field.

Wesley So defeated Vincent Keymer with white pieces in Armageddon. The American leads with 14 points with two rounds to go. Play resumes on Thursday after the rest day. (The correspondent is in Oslo on the invitation of Norway Chess)

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Ukrainian drones hit an oil terminal & naval base in St Petersburg, hours before Russian President Vladimir Putin's showcase economic forum got under way in the city

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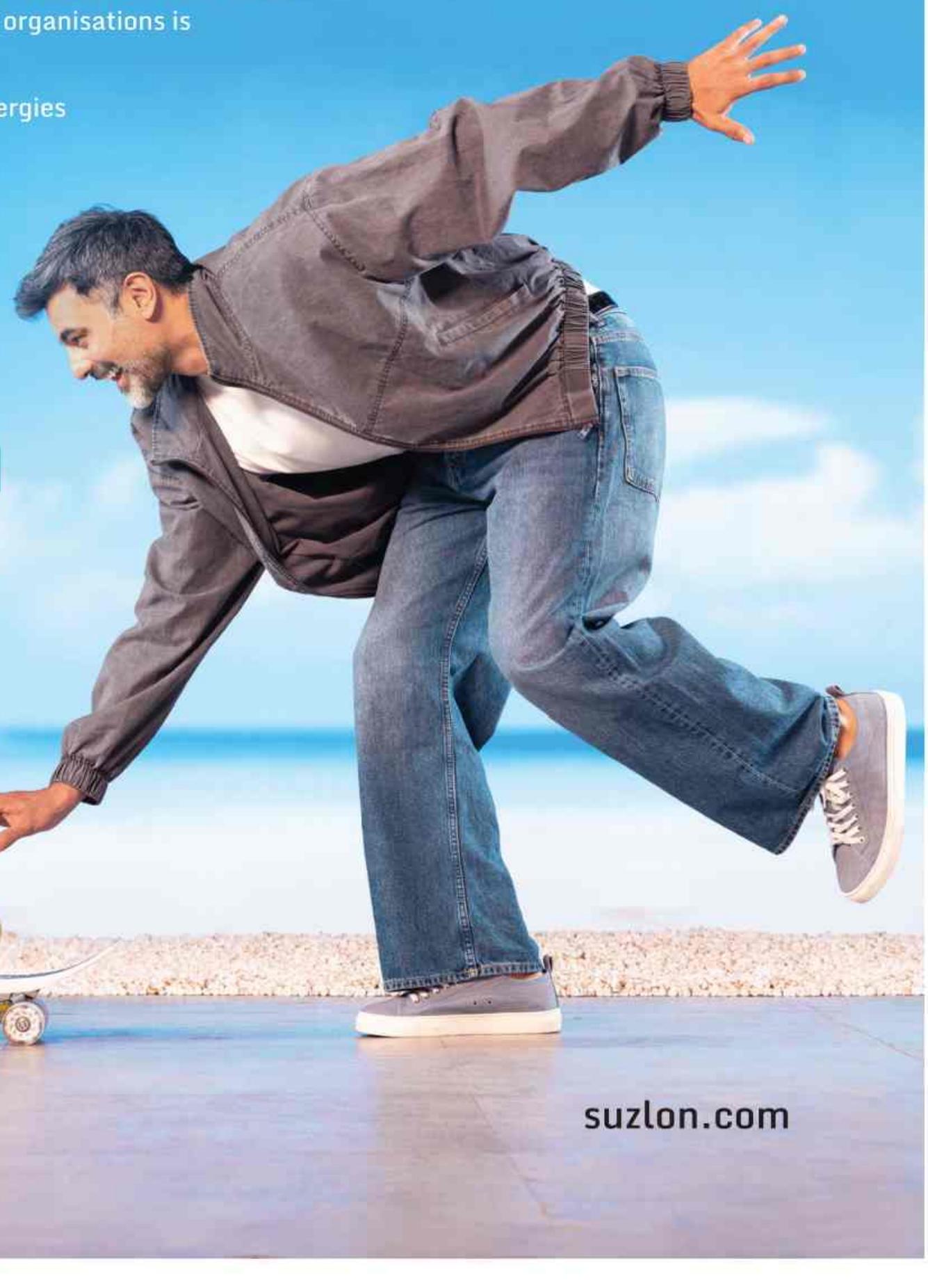

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SARPREET SINGH REPRESENTING NEW ZEALAND IS AMONG THREE OTHER PLAYERS OF INDIAN ORIGIN TO PLAY AT FIFA FOOTBALL WORLD CUP 15

Captain Shivakumar Opens Innings With Welfare Stroke

Siddaramaiah's XI Dominates New Cabinet; DCM Parameshwara

Manu Aiyappa Kanathanda & Santosh Kumar B | TNN

Bengaluru: DK Shivakumar's long-cherished ambition to lead the side was realised Wednesday as he took oath as the 24th chief minister of Karnataka, with his new cabinet reflecting a careful balance of caste and regional dynamics, while carrying a distinct imprint of former CM Siddaramaiah.

Senior Congress functionary and prominent Dalit face G Parameshwara — a frontline contender for the top post as reported earlier by **TOI** — was sworn in as the deputy chief minister. Twelve other ministers, several of whom are close aides of the former CM, were inducted in this ini-

▶FULL COVERAGE, P 2

tial phase of cabinet formation. Siddaramaiah's son, Yathindra, was the lone MLC to be inducted, while all other sworn-in members are MLAs.

Late in the evening, Congress appointed BK Hariprasad, an influential OBC leader, as president of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, a post held by DK Shivakumar for six years.

Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shivakumar and others at a ceremony held in Lok Bhavan's Glass House starting from 4.10pm, a time that reportedly aligned with astrological recommendations.

The ceremony was steeped in religious symbolism and cultural traditions. Dressed in a beige silk kurta, a Congress-themed shawl, rudraksha chain, and sacred ash on his forehead, Shivakumar took oath in the name of Veera Gangadhara Ajjayya, a revered Shaiva saint from Tumakuru, while holding a copy of the Constitution.

Before taking the stage, the chief minister bowed to religious heads from multiple faiths and offered floral tributes to a portrait of Kaiwara Taatayya, the 18th-century poet-saint whose mutt Shivakumar visits during major political milestones. The venue itself reflected deep local roots and meticulous planning, decorated in the vibrant yellow and red of the Karnataka flag with the stage facing east against a grand visual backdrop of the Vidhana Soudha.

District-wise, Bengaluru Urban dominated with four ministers. Kalaburagi secured two berths, while Bengaluru South, Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, Vijayapura, Bidar, Dakshina Kannada, Belagavi, and Mysuru each found representation with one.

▶Finance for DKS? P 3

13 TAKE OATH AS MINISTERS

FIRMLY IN THE SADDLE: Doddalahalli Kempegowda Shivakumar takes oath as the 24th chief minister of Karnataka in Lok Bhavan, Bengaluru, Wednesday, holding a copy of the Constitution

FULL OF FAITH

- Before taking the stage, **DKS bowed to religious heads from multiple faiths** who he invited to the ceremony
- **Offered floral tributes to a portrait of Kaiwara Taatayya,** the 18th-century poet-saint
- Shivakumar **took oath in the name of revered Tumakuru saint** Veera Gangadhara Ajjayya

NEW PRESIDENT FOR CONGRESS

Congress **appointed BK Hariprasad as president of** Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, a post held by DK Shivakumar for six years

CASTE MATRIX OF THE NEW K'TAKA CABINET

DKS has inducted an initial cabinet of 13 ministers

- **3 ministers each** were sworn in from Vokkaliga, Lingayat and Dalit communities
- **2** inducted as mins **from Kuruba** community
- **1 each from** Scheduled Tribes, Christian & Muslim communities

Day 1: Free bus pass for students, portal for pvt jobs, ₹2k-cr for roads

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Bengaluru: In his first cabinet meeting after taking charge, chief minister DK Shivakumar Wednesday announced a series of initiatives focused on youth welfare, infrastructure and employment, positioning the new administration's agenda around what he called a 'yuva yuga'.

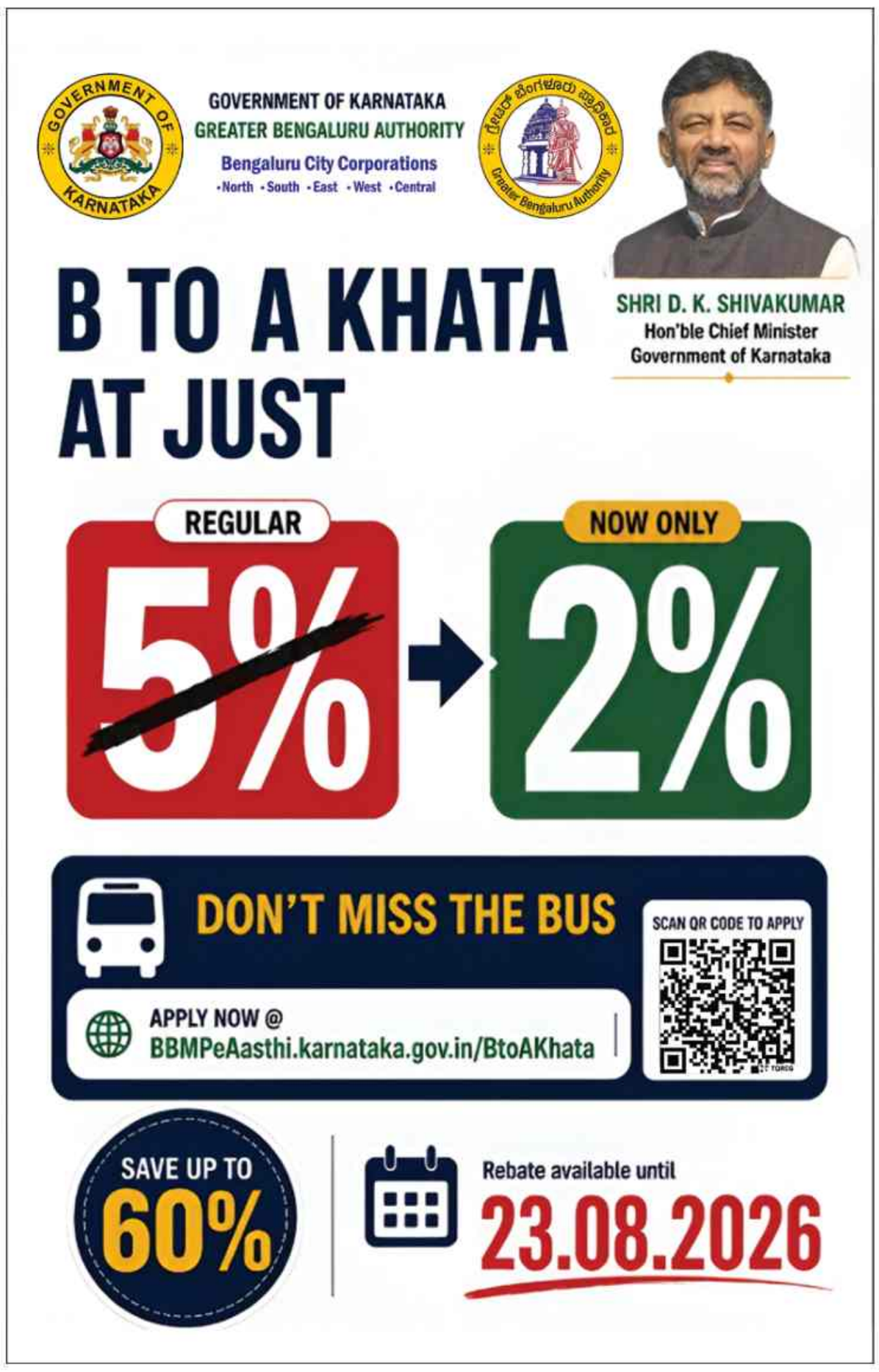
The decisions include free bus passes for all students, establishment of 10,000 youth clubs across the state, a Rs 2,000-crore road-repair programme, relaxation of building norms for select residential constructions, and the launch of a private-sector job exchange portal.

"Free bus passes will be provided to all students — from school to postgraduate level, studying in both private and public institutions. Students must apply for it," Shivakumar said.

Sources said that the bus pass move is expected to cost an additional Rs 250 crore. The state is already providing subsidised passes for male students and free travel for girl students under the Shakti scheme.

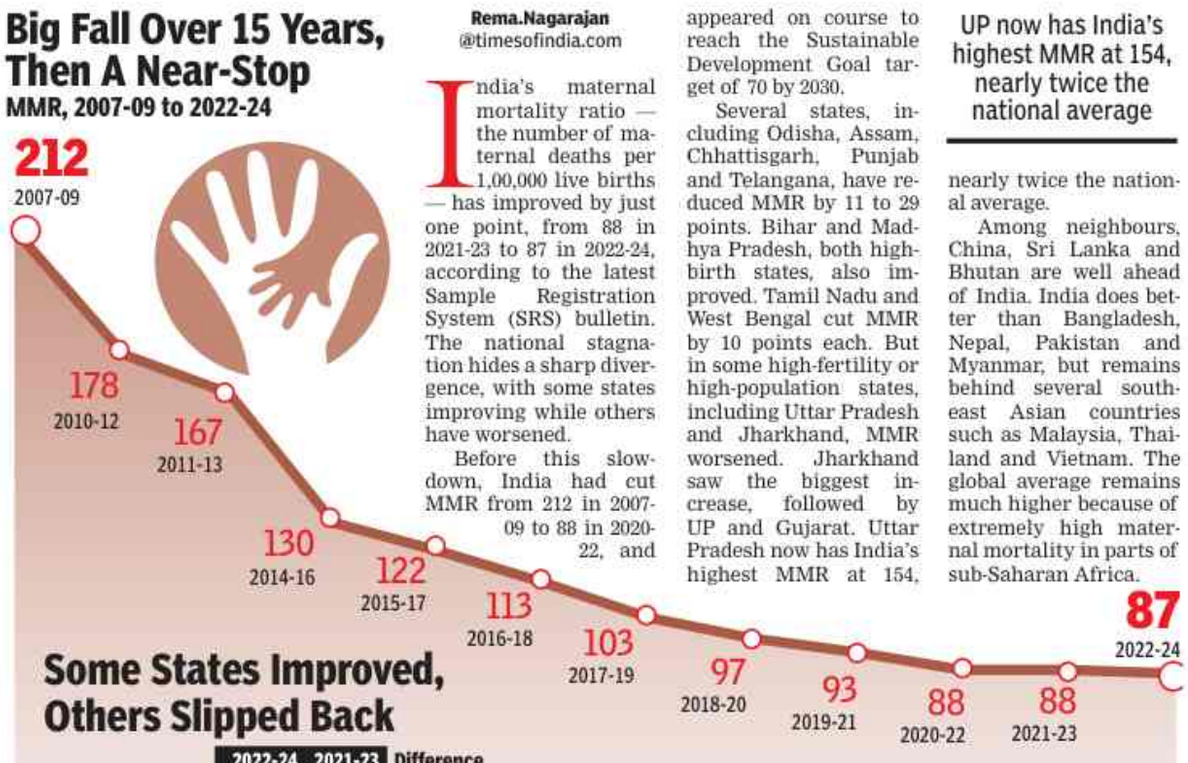
Shivakumar also announced creation of 10,000 youth clubs, to be called Bharat Jodo Clubs, with one club in every gram panchayat and urban ward across Karnataka. Each club will receive a grant of Rs 10 lakh.

▶Funds for roads, P 3



India nears maternal mortality goal, but progress slows

MMR is down sharply over two decades, but the latest data shows a near-stall and widening state-level contrasts



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India's maternal mortality ratio — the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births — has improved by just one point, from 88 in 2021-23 to 87 in 2022-24, according to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin. The national stagnation hides a sharp divergence, with some states improving while others have worsened.

Before this slowdown, India had cut MMR from 212 in 2007-09 to 88 in 2020-22, and appeared on course to reach the Sustainable Development Goal target of 70 by 2030.

Several states, including Odisha, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Telangana, have reduced MMR by 11 to 29 points. Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, both high-birth states, also improved. Tamil Nadu and West Bengal cut MMR by 10 points each. But in some high-fertility or high-population states, including Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, MMR worsened. Jharkhand saw the biggest increase, followed by UP and Gujarat. Uttar Pradesh now has India's highest MMR at 154, nearly twice the national average.

UP now has India's highest MMR at 154, nearly twice the national average

Among neighbours, China, Sri Lanka and Bhutan are well ahead of India. India does better than Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Myanmar, but remains behind several southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. The global average remains much higher because of extremely high maternal mortality in parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

Some States Improved, Others Slipped Back

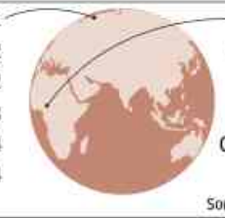
	2022-24	2021-23	Difference
India	**87**	**88**	**-1**
Odisha	124	153	-29
Assam	84	110	-26
Chhattisgarh	124	146	-22
Punjab	77	90	-13
Telangana	48	59	-11
Tamil Nadu	25	35	-10
West Bengal	94	104	-10
Bihar	96	104	-8
Madhya Pradesh	135	142	-7
Kerala	24	30	-6
Other states	84	86	-2
Rajasthan	87	86	1
Maharashtra	37	36	1
Karnataka	73	68	5
Haryana	94	89	5
Uttarakhand	99	91	8
Andhra Pradesh	39	30	9
Uttar Pradesh	154	141	13
Gujarat	64	51	13
Jharkhand	82	54	28

India Beats Most Neighbours, Trails China Badly

THE GLOBAL GAP

From 1 To Nearly 1,000

Best 5		Worst 5	
Norway	1	Nigeria	993
Poland	2	South Sudan	692
Australia	2	Liberia	628
Japan	3	Somalia	563
Sweden	4	Guinea-Bissau	505
Germany	4		



Source: World Bank for 2023

Cops abusing their authority must be sternly dealt with: SC

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Bombay HC had granted anticipatory bail to the three police officials, who are accused of harassing the family and extracting money to save them from action with respect to a gold bar found in their baggage

New Delhi: Highlighting the anguish of those who have to face undue harassment at the hands of police, Supreme Court has said that a police official who abuses their position must be dealt with sternly and presumptions and standards applicable to an accused-layperson would not apply to them. It canceled the anticipatory bail granted to three Maharashtra police officials who had allegedly harassed a family, including a minor girl, following a search on a train.

"When law enforcers turn extortionists, the citizen looks askance and is left in a dilemma. To confront is to invite instant retaliation and the option is only to succumb meekly to the uniformed authority, even when there is patent abuse," a bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and K Vinod Chandran said.

Bombay High Court had granted anticipatory bail to the three police officials, who are accused of harassing the family and extracting money to save them from action with respect to a gold bar found in their baggage. Quashing the HC order, bench said that HC "threw to the winds the caution expressed by this Court" in State of Jharkhand v. Sandeep Kumar, in which abuse of authority had come up for consideration.

"This Court held that in every case of anticipatory bail, the factors which ought to weigh with the Courts are the gravity of the offence, probity of the evidence, antecedents of the accused, possibilities of flight, tampering with evidence, influencing witnesses, the impact on society and any aspect peculiar to the case or the accused. The grant of anticipatory bail, especially to a wayward police officer charged with enforcement of law, where the normal presumptions applicable to an accused layperson would not apply, was frowned upon, especially when there is a clear abuse of authority," bench said.

In the case before it, a family travelling from Mumbai on Hapa Duronto Express was detained by police personnel after a gold bar weighing 14 grams and Rs 31,900 in cash were detected in their baggage. It was alleged that police took themto a nearby room where they were intimidated and verbally abused.

Before deciding the matter, SC examined CCTV footage of the incident, which showed the family in distress due to actions of the accused.

SC collegium selects 10 new judges for 3 HCs

New Delhi: SC collegium led by CJI Surya Kant has recommended names of 10 advocates and judicial officers for appointment as judges of HCs in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh.

The collegium recommended names of six advocates — Raghavendra Seetharam Srivatsa, Hema Kulkarni, Subramanya Rangarao, Thadagavadi Prakash Vivekananda, Bakkeswara Pramod, and Hombe Gowda Shanthi Bhushan — to Union govt for appointment as judges of Karnataka high court.

Names of three senior judicial officers — Chirag Bhanu Singh, Bhupesh Sharma and Yogesh Jaswal — were recommended for appointment as judges of Himachal HC. For Madhya Pradesh HC, collegium recommended to Centre advocate Amit Lahoti's appointment as a judge. TNN

Top court to examine whether fitness bands are communication devices

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New Delhi: Are fitness bands, popularly used for measuring and monitoring physical activity and vital body parameters, communication devices?

Supreme Court has agreed to examine this question even as it flagged that Bluetooth connectivity could have been the reason for their classification as communication devices by Customs authorities. Petitioner GOQii Technologies had imported activity trackers/fitness bands and the consignment was classified as communication devices by Customs department, which asked company to execute provisional duty bonds for Rs 3.64 crore.

The goods were released after company furnished a bank guarantee of Rs 1 crore.

Petitioner's counsel Kumar Sambhav told a bench of Justices P S Narasimha, Aravind Kumar and Shree Chandrashekhar that since fitness bands were measuring/counting devices, they should have been classified as 'pedometers and the like/other', but Customs department erroneously treated the goods as apparatus for 'transmission or reception of data' and levied additional duties.

CUSTOMS ROW

Agreeing to examine the issue, court issued notice to Commissioner Customs (imports), posting the matter for further hearing on Sept 11. "Till the next date of hearing, the bank guarantee shall not be invoked," it ordered.

The petitioner said, "The principal and predominant function of the goods, as found on record, is measurement and the monitoring of physical activity and vital parameters, and the data-connectivity (Bluetooth) feature is admittedly ancillary."

Justice Kumar said that such a device does not remain a purely measuring gadget when it can be connected to communication devices like mobile phones and other satellite-based communication systems through Bluetooth.

The petitioner said it had placed Bombay IIT's expert opinion that such a device is not a communication but a measuring device before Customs, Excise & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), but tribunal upheld Customs department's stand.

CESTAT had rejected company's plea for classification of fitness bands as 'pedometers', saying that essential function of all pedometers is to count the number of steps taken by a person, which is done through an internal mechanism in place for the same.

SC lets T'gana institutes use 'Princeton' name with disclaimer

Hyderabad: The Supreme Court directed six educational institutions in Telangana, including The Vagdevi Educational Society, which have been using the name "Princeton" to declare "in clear terms that they have no connection" with the prestigious Princeton University of the US, **reports Pinto Deepak**. A bench of Justice P V Sanjay Kumar and Justice K Vinod Chandran passed the direction on May 29 while disposing of appeals filed by Princeton University in a trademark dispute.

According to Princeton University, unauthorized use of its name by the institutes threatened its international reputation and brand equity, and students could easily be misled or deceived into believing these local colleges are affiliated to it.